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FBIS-EAS-94-188 CONTENTS *28 September 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Amnesty International on Indonesian Rights Abuses *[AFP]* 1

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

- Asia-Pacific City Summit Agrees on More Meetings *[KYODO]* 2
- SRV Delegates Attend AIPO Meeting in Manila *[VNA]* 2
- Mongolia Attends Mekong Conference as Observer *[BANGKOK POST 27 Sep]* 2
- Malaysian Urges Defense Industry Collaboration *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 26 Sep]* 3

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- Hashimoto Begins Talks With Kantor, Brown *[KYODO]* 5
  - Failed To Resolve Deadlock *[KYODO]* 5
  - MOFA, MITI Concerned *[YOMIURI SHIMBUN 27 Sep]* 5
  - Tokyo 'Stands Ready' *[KYODO]* 6
  - Kono, Kantor To Meet 30 Sep *[KYODO]* 6
- Government To 'Do Its Best' To Settle Talks *[KYODO]* 6
- Reportage on Kono Attending UN General Assembly 6
  - KYODO Summarizes Kono Speech 6
  - Avoids Mention of Hiroshima Bombing *[KYODO]* 7
  - Kono Meets With Butrus-Ghali *[KYODO]* 7
  - McKinnon, Kono Discuss UN Role *[KYODO]* 8
- Tokyo To Build Public Consensus on UNSC Seat *[KYODO]* 8
- Japan-U.S. Joint Development of TMD Opposed *[MAINICHI SHIMBUN 27 Sep]* 8
- International Role for 21st Century Outlined *[SEIRON Aug]* 9
- Hoshuyama's 'Controversial' Remarks Creating Stir *[MAINICHI SHIMBUN 25 Sep]* 15
  - DFAA Chief Apologizes *[OKINAWA TIMES 27 Sep]* 16
  - Apology From Cabinet Secretary *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 28 Sep]* 17
- Foreign Firms Plan Withdrawal From Stock Market *[KYODO]* 17
- Tokyo-Moscow Talks on Weapons Export Controls *[KYODO]* 17
- Future Tokyo-Beijing Relations Discussed *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 28 Sep]* 18
- PRC To Allow Foreign Bank Branches in Beijing *[KYODO]* 18
- KYODO, VNA Agree To Promote News Exchange *[KYODO]* 19
- Defense Attache To Assess Security in Rwanda *[KYODO]* 19
- Opposition Parties Form New Lower House Bloc *[KYODO]* 19
- Ozawa as New Party Secretary General Analyzed *[TOKYO SHIMBUN 26 Sep]* 19
- Opposition Camp Sets Up Panel for New Party *[KYODO]* 20
- Four JNP Members Form 'New Democratic Club' *[KYODO]* 21
- Voters' Plea Against Vote Disparity Rejected *[KYODO]* 21
- Ozawa's Plans for Next Elections Outlined *[SENTAKU Aug]* 21
- Selection of Candidates for Next Election *[SENTAKU Aug]* 23
- Supplementary Political Reform Package Endorsed *[KYODO]* 25
- * Discord Between Taisaku Ikeda, Yuichi Ichikawa *[GENDAI Aug]* 26

Ministry Plans Financial Assistance for Farmers *[KYODO]* 30
Guidelines on Rice Market Opening Delayed *[KYODO]* 30
SDPJ Calls For Rice Price Stabilization Fund *[KYODO]* 30
Ministry Wants Rice Pricing System To Remain *[KYODO]* 31
Highest Rice Production in 10 Years Predicted *[KYODO]* 31
1994 Trade Surplus To Hit Record $136 Billion *[KYODO]* 31
Reportage on Economic Outlook, Recovery 32
    'Moving Toward' Recovery *[KYODO]* 32
    Recovery Moving 'Slowly' *[KYODO]* 32
Aug Sales Down on Year for Major Retailers *[KYODO]* 33
Issues in Information Revolution Reviewed *[GENDAI Aug]* 33

North Korea

U.S. Criticized for 'Gunboat Diplomacy' *[KCNA]* 38
Perry's 'Military' Comment Condemned in ROK *[KCNA]* 38
Mozambican President Favors DPRK-U.S. Talks *[KCNA]* 38
Peace, Reunification Committee Formed in South *[KCNA]* 39
'Kim Yong-sam Group' Decried for Students' Arrest *[KCNA]* 39
'Corruption' of ROK Civil Servants Alleged *[KCNA]* 39
South Koreans' Antinuclear Struggle Described *[Pyongyang Radio]* 39
Paper: Make Northeast Asia Nuclear-Free Zone *[KCNA]* 41
UN Assembly Elects DPRK 'Vice-President' *[KCNA]* 41
Youth Groups Publish Joint Statement on Visit *[KCNA]* 41
Newspapers Observe World Maritime Day *[KCNA]* 41
Article Published on Japan's 'Past Crimes' *[KCNA]* 42
Koreans From Japan Open Aeguk Orchard in Kosong *[KCNA]* 42
PRC Newspaper Delegation Visits Mangyongdae *[Pyongyang Radio]* 42
Senior Officials Meet Omani Ministry Delegation *[KCNA]* 42
Science, Technology Plan Signed With Bulgaria *[KCNA]* 43
Protocol Signed With Syrian Political Institute *[KCNA]* 43
Norway-Korea Friendship Association Branch Opens *[KCNA]* 43
WPK Sends Greetings to Zimbabwean Party Leader *[KCNA]* 43
Foreign Delegations Arrive in Pyongyang 27 Sep *[KCNA]* 43
Kim Chong-il Receives Greetings From Abroad *[KCNA]* 43
South Koreans Reportedly Praise Kim Chong-il *[KCNA]* 44
Kim Chong-il Receives Thanks From Sihanouk *[KCNA]* 44
Kim Chong-il Thanks Soldiers, Military Schools *[KCNA]* 44
Foreign Media Praise of Kim Il-song Reported *[KCNA]* 45
Foreign Delegations Visit Kim Il-song Statue *[KCNA]* 45
Gambian, Mongolian Leaders Praise Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 45
Further on Fourth Pyongyang Film Festival *[KCNA]* 46
    Tribute Paid to Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 46
    First Films Shown at Festival *[KCNA]* 46
    Reception Held for Participants *[KCNA]* 47
Party, Government Leaders Visit Chonchon Office *[KCNA]* 47
    Accomplishments Discussed *[Pyongyang Radio]* 47
Autumn Harvesting in Provinces Reported *[KCNA]* 49

South Korea

Defector: North Tested Nuclear Weapon in Russia *[CHOSON ILBO 27 Sep]* 49
Han Briefs National Assembly on DPRK Issues *[YONHAP]* 50
Ministry: North Continuing War Preparations *[YONHAP]* 51
Alternatives Viewed if North Rejects Reactor *[YONHAP]* 51
Issue Agenda for U.S. Security Talks Viewed *[YONHAP]* 51
'Deadlocked' DPRK-U.S. Talks Discussed *[YONHAP]* 52
    'No Progress' in 27 Sep Talks *[YONHAP]* 52
Former Deputy PM on South Policy Toward North *[HANGYORE SINMUN 14 Sep]* 52
Newspaper Reporter Meets With DPRK Official *[HANGYORE SINMUN 14 Sep]* 53
    Reports on Impressions of DPRK *[HANGYORE SINMUN 16 Sep]* 53

Team Planned for 'Sudden Reunification' Prospect *[YONHAP]* 53
144 Foreign Firms Invested in DPRK 1985 to 1993 *[YONHAP]* 54
Ministry Report Details USFK Capabilities *[YONHAP]* 54
Value of Won Rising Against U.S. Dollar Viewed *[YONHAP]* 54
Foreign Minister's UN Trip Agenda Previewed *[YONHAP]* 54
Seoul Donates Transport Equipment to UN Program *[YONHAP]* 55
Reduction in Support for Group in Japan Planned *[YONHAP]* 55
South-Japan, South-PRC Ferry Lines Planned *[YONHAP]* 55
President Gives Embezzlement Probe Instructions *[YONHAP]* 55
No Denies Money Allegedly Attributed to Account *[YONHAP]* 56
Former President Choe Refuses To Answer Queries *[YONHAP]* 56
Two 'Progressive' Politicians Join Ruling Party *[YONHAP]* 56
    Dissidents' Admission Opposed *[YONHAP]* 57
Military Denies Ilsan Built on Defense Concept *[YONHAP]* 57
Number of Insubordination Cases in Army Viewed *[YONHAP]* 57
Ministry Expects 'Below Average' Rice Crop *[YONHAP]* 58

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Leaves for Turkey, Jordan, Turkmenistan *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 59
    Radio Previews Mahathir Tour *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 59
* Imports from Britain Increase Despite Ban *[KOMPAS 16 Aug]* 59
* Survey of Japanese Investments Reported *[KOMPAS 13 Aug]* 60

Cambodia

Ranariddh Awards Medal to Thai Company Chief *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 60
Ranariddh Urges Expansion of Airport Runway *[REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA 26-27 Sep]* 60
Planning Minister Reviews Regional Talks *[REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA 28 Sep]* 61
Lao Request for Access To Sihanoukville Accepted *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 61
Official Doubts Plan To Carry Freight by Train *[REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA 28 Sep]* 61
Broadcaster Decides To Impose Self-Censorship *[THE CAMBODIA DAILY 25 Sep]* 62
Article Criticizes Lack of Results From Probes *[THE CAMBODIA DAILY 22 Sep]* 62

Indonesia

Group Leaves for Talks With Overseas Timorese *[ANTARA]* 63
Economic Agreements Signed With Thailand *[ANTARA]* 63
* Suharto Equates Democracy With Stability *[BISNIS INDONESIA 18 Aug]* 63
* Economic Indicators Omit Environmental Costs *[KOMPAS 12 Aug]* 64

Philippines

Government Sets Funds for GATT 'Safety Nets' *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 23 Sep]* 66

Thailand

Report Previews Chuan Agenda in Canada, U.S. *[Bangkok Radio]* 67
Editorial: Clinton's UN Speech 'Shows Maturity' *[THE NATION 28 Sep]* 67
Alleged Drug Dealer Watthana Interviewed *[THE NATION 27 Sep]* 68
Prasong To Visit Phnom Penh on Detainees *[BANGKOK POST 28 Sep]* 70
Army To Take Action Against Cambodian 'Criminals' *[BANGKOK POST 28 Sep]* 70
Opinion Poll Rates Chuan Government Performance *[THE NATION 28 Sep]* 71

Vietnam

Communique Issued on Mauritian Minister's Visit *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 72
Nation Prepares for Full ASEAN Membership *[Hanoi International]* ... 72
State Inspection Delegation Concludes PRC Visit *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 73
EC Credit Assistance Program for Returnees Ends *[Hanoi Radio]* ... 73
Foreign Currency Exchange Counters Planned *[Hanoi International]* ... 73

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Keating's APEC Free Trade Agenda Viewed *[THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW 9 Sep]* ... 74

New Zealand

Quarterly Trade Deficit Reaches $120 Million *[Melbourne International]* ... 75

Papua New Guinea

Premier Goes to Fiji To Sign Peacekeeping Pact *[Melbourne International]* ... 75
  Three Countries Sign Pact *[Melbourne International]* ... 76

Amnesty International on Indonesian Rights Abuses

BK2809111194 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 28 Sep 94

[By Patrick Lescot]

[Text] BANGKOK, Sept 28 (AFP)—Amnesty International is to take its campaign against human rights abuses by Indonesia to APEC in a bid to get regional governments to pressure Jakarta into changing its policies, Amnesty Secretary General Pierre Sane said Wednesday.

"It is our intention, directly, and also through our national sections in all Asian countries to take up this campaign in government circles and to insist that human rights concerns be raised during the APEC meeting" in Indonesia in November, he said.

"Our role is to make sure that the issue is kept on the agenda and that economic interest, strategic interests, do not prevail over human rights concerns," he said.

The leaders of the 17 member nations of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum are due to meet in Bogor, near Jakarta.

"As far as the human rights situation in East Timor is concerned, what we are telling the governments in the region is that in their relationships with Indonesia, it should be a central concern."

"Systematic human rights abuse has continued in Indonesia for nearly 30 years, and in East Timor for almost 20," he added.

Indonesia has brought several leaders of the Sejahtera independent labour union to trial, accusing them of inciting the workers' unrest in Medan, North Sumatra, in April, which later degenerated into a racial riot that killed one man and caused substantial property damage.

In June, the government forced the closing of three major press publications.

Indonesia unilaterally declared East Timor its 27th province in 1976, but the United Nations continues to regard Lisbon as the administrator there. The East Timorese pro-independence movement FRETILIN has been fighting Indonesian authorities there ever since.

The Aceh Merdeka (Free Aceh) movement has been seeking an independent and Islamic state in Aceh since the 1970s. and the Organisasi Papua Merdeka (Free Papua Organization) have sought independence for Irian Jaya since the early 1980s.

Sane added that it was "scandalous" the way governments had dealt with Indonesia, with only a handful taking any action after Indonesian troops opened fire on demonstrators in the East Timor capital of Dili in 1991. Amnesty has said 270 died in the incident.

"It is sure that since the end of the Cold War, western governments are increasingly being selective and apply double standards" where human rights are concerned, he said.

This trend was however being counterbalanced by the "a rapid and dramatic" increase in human rights movements" particularly in Asia, Sane said.

Sane met Tuesday with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai.

APEC groups Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Taiwan, the United States and the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Jakarta has suggested that journalists covering the APEC meet will be able to travel to East Timor, a place from which Amnesty has been banned.

Sane, accompanied by Geoffrey Robinson, a specialist on Indonesia and East Timor, is due to continue his campaign after leaving Bangkok on Saturday with trips to Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

Robinson, who has just returned from a week-long visit to Indonesia, attacked the "dramatic escalation of official harassment and intimidation."

He claimed that since August numerous professional and cultural rallies had been banned, while some 15,000 security personnel were currently engaged in "Operation Cleansing" to remove "undesirable" elements from the capital ahead of APEC.

Asia-Pacific City Summit Agrees on More Meetings

OW2409131294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Fukuoka, Sept. 24 KYODO—Officials from Asia-Pacific cities wrapped up talks Saturday [24 September] on how to resolve urban problems by adopting a joint communique calling for more such meetings as a model of regional cooperation. A total of 21 cities in 11 Asian countries and regions sent delegates to Fukuoka, western Japan, for the four-day "city summit" to discuss how to promote mutual relations and resolve urban problems. The Fukuoka Municipal Government invited the cities to debate ways to harmonize urban development with the residential environment.

After the meeting concluded, Bangkok Mayor Kritsuda Arunwong told a joint news conference it is meaningful to discuss ways to resolve urban problems since many cities face similar dilemmas.

Vo Viet Thanh, deputy mayor of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, said city summits will enable municipalities to avoid repeating the same mistakes in tackling urban problems by learning from experiences in other cities. The delegates decided to set up a center office in Fukuoka and to hold a meeting of Asia-Pacific cities every two years in the future. The next meeting is to be held in 1996 in Guangzhou, China.

Other participants included mayors from Pusan in South Korea, Shanghai in China, Hong Kong, Manila in the Philippines, Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Singapore, Jakarta in Indonesia and Auckland, New Zealand. Mayors from eight southwestern Japanese cities—Kitakyushu, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima and Naha—also took part in the meeting.

SRV Delegates Attend AIPO Meeting in Manila

BK2409090594 Hanoi VNA in English 0624 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 24—A delegation of the National Assembly [NA] led by Deputy Head of the NA's Commission for External Relations Tran Van Phac attended as an observer at the 15th Conference of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation [AIPO] held from September 19-24 in Manila, the Philippines.

At the conference, the Vietnamese delegation spoke about the cause of renovation in Vietnam, its achievements were highly appreciated by all ASEAN members. The delegation also reaffirmed Vietnam's wish to further promote its friendship and long-term cooperation with the countries in ASEAN as well as in over the world and said that at present Vietnam was actively preparing itself to join ASEAN in the near future. The conference warmly welcomed that intention of Vietnam.

The Vietnamese delegation also called for the conference's attention to Vietnam's concern about the new immigration law of Cambodia which is threatening the security and normal life of Vietnamese ethnics in Cambodia.

While in the Philippines, the Vietnamese delegation held cordial meetings with AIPO leaders and other delegations.

Mongolia Attends Mekong Conference as Observer

BK2709134894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST (INSIDE INDOCHINA Supplement) in English 27 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Nutsara Thaithawat in Chiang Mai]

[Text] Mongolia, North Korea, Russia and China have jumped on the bandwagon with their own "growth area" along the Tumen River, similar in concept to the six-country Greater Mekong Subregional Economic Cooperation group.

A delegation from Ulaanbaatar, headed by the first deputy minister of the National Development Board of Mongolia, observed the fourth meeting on Mekong cooperation, on September 15-16 in Chiang Mai.

During the meeting, planning and transport ministers from Burma, Cambodia, China's Yunnan province, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, considered the final reports on infrastructure and energy prepared by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to stimulate economic activity in the subregion.

Lhagvaagiyn Demberel, the first deputy minister, told INSIDE INDOCHINA, Mongolia wanted to learn how things were done through the Mekong cooperation system, since it gained momentum a few years ago with strong backing from the ADB.

Demberel said Mongolia was interested in how subregional infrastructure projects were negotiated among the six countries and potential donors, but more importantly, how the "soft infrastructure" was being worked out.

"For us the soft infrastructure is very important—tariffs, customs, rules and regulations—we will face these issues in our Tumen programme.

"Even if we pave some roads and build railways, if we've not agreed on the rules and regulations, it makes no sense," Demberel said.

The Tumen programme was initiated at the end of 1992 by China with the backing of Russia. Its concept is similar not only to the Mekong cooperation group, but also to the other growth areas which are very popular among the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

These ASEAN growth areas include:

—the Northern Growth Triangle, covering Indonesia's Sumatera, the northern states of Malaysia and the southern provinces of Thailand;
—the Southern Growth Triangle, covering Singapore, Indonesia's Riau province and Malaysia's State of Johor, and;
—the Eastern Growth Triangle, covering Indonesia's West Kalimantan and Sulawesi, Malaysia's Sarawak, Sabah and East Kalimantan, and the Philippines' Mindanao province and Brunei;
—the Golden Quadrangle, covering northern Thailand, parts of Laos, Burma, and China's Yunnan province.

A close observer of the northeast Asian subregion said China and Russia were undergoing economic reforms and were looking to boost the economies of provinces along their coast line. He also said that communist North Korea, with its worsening economic problems, was open to the idea of subregional economic cooperation with countries with which it felt "familiar".

Mongolia, a landlocked country, was looking for a way out to the open sea and more importantly "outside options" to balance Russia, which has dominated the country since the 1940s, and China, he said. However, the Tumen programme was moving at a very slow pace.

"It's not as lucky as the Mekong cooperation group which has received strong backing—financial and in expertise from the ADB and international donors," the observer said. He also said private sector involvement was very limited in trading between North Korea, China, Russia, and Mongolia, unlike the private initiatives in the countries of the Mekong.

Mongolia was invited to observe the fourth meeting on Mekong cooperation with the support of the ADB and Thailand's Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board.

The meeting endorsed the final reports of the ADB and agreed to set up a coordinating committee at decision-making level and working groups of experts to draw up the "soft infrastructure". The ADB will serve as the secretariat. Demberel denied Mongolia was looking forward to linking up with the Mekong cooperation group, as earlier anticipated.

"We're here only as an observer, just to learn from the experience of the Mekong countries, but it doesn't mean our country will get involved," he said. He said Mongolia was undergoing major structural reforms with the aim to democratise and to adopt a market-driven economy, through the implementation of a four-year adjustment programme, backed up by a three-year Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, approved by the International Monetary Fund in 1993. So far, the ADB is the main investor, but Demberel said Mongolia was trying to promote tourism, the agri-industry and mineral exploitation.

Malaysian Urges Defense Industry Collaboration

BK2809071494 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 26 Sep 94 p 7

[By Sufi Yusoff]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sun. [25 September]—ASEAN countries should collaborate in efforts to develop their defence industries to reduce costs, maximise profits, and expand their industrial base, Defence Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said. He said several ASEAN countries were in various stages of developing their defence industries, and such future efforts to expand these sectors should be coordinated to maximise the economies of scale expand their research base and industrial network. He cited the close collaborative work being carried by defence companies in Europe with not a single producer capable of producing major weapons systems without tie-ups with other manufacturers.

Such tie-ups are evident in the production of military aircraft, warships, land defence equipment, electronic software and hardware, and weapons systems.

He was speaking after closing the six-day 23rd Pacific Area Seniors Officers Logistic Seminar (PASOLS) here yesterday. The seminar was attended by 116 delegates from 29 countries, including observer nations such as China, Japan, and Indonesia. This is the first time Malaysia is hosting the conference.

Earlier, Najib said there had been suggestions that ASEAN should consider joint purchases of arms, but this move could not be implemented immediately because each country had its own military requirements.

"We are now buying arms individually, but in our bilateral discussions, we have talked of cooperation in terms of joint purchases. It may not happen now, but I am optimistic this will be a viable proposition in the near future."

As a first step towards joint purchases, Najib cited the move by Malaysia and Indonesia to swap the Malaysian-made SME MD-3-160 light trainer aircraft with the Indonesian IPTN CN-235 medium-lift transport aircraft.

"This has created a ready market for the light trainer aircraft which will make the project a viable one," he said. The main buyer of the CN-235 is the Indonesian Air Force. Indonesia has indicated interest in buying 20 MD-3-160 light trainer aircraft, and a similar number will be built for the Royal Malaysian Air Force [RMAF]. The RMAF has an initial requirement for six CN-235 transport aircraft and may increase the order as and when the need arose.

Integral in the aircraft swap is Indonesia's approval for the import of 1,500 Proton Iswara cars to be used as taxis and for the Indonesian automobile industry to produce certain components for Proton cars.

Najib said Australia's offer for joint production of the New Generation Patrol Vessel (NGPV) for the Royal Malaysian Navy could also be taken as a case study.

Australia has proposed to jointly build 27 NGPVs costing RM [ringgit] 4.1 billion for the navy and an undisclosed number for the Royal Australian Navy in cooperation with the Lumut Naval Dockyard Sdn. Bhd. [Private Limited], local shipbuilders, and other interested parties.

Japan

Hashimoto Begins Talks With Kantor, Brown

OW2709235094 Tokyo KYODO in English 2314 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Washington, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japan's Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto began talks with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown Tuesday afternoon in an attempt to reach a trade agreement on the auto and auto parts sector.

Earlier in the day, Hashimoto said he would like to see trade agreements in areas where they can be reached.

"I would like to deal with areas which can be dealt with rather than demand from each other commitments that cannot be made," Hashimoto told reporters upon arrival at Washington's Dullas International Airport.

"I will say 'no' when asked to do something which we cannot do," said Hashimoto.

Asked to comment on prospects for an agreement on trade in auto and auto parts, Hashimoto said, "I will make an effort."

An official at the Japanese Embassy in Washington said Hashimoto will meet with Kantor and Brown at the same time because he must return home Thursday to attend the opening session of an extraordinary Diet session that begins Friday.

Trade in autos and auto parts is one of the three areas given priority in the "framework" talks between the two countries, which hit a snare over Washington's demand that "objective criteria" be set to measure foreign access to Japanese markets.

Failed To Resolve Deadlock

OW2809033994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Washington, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japan's Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto wrapped up talks with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown Tuesday [27 September] without any agreement on auto and auto parts issues.

"We had a battle in a friendly atmosphere," Hashimoto told reporters after meeting Kantor and Brown in a last-ditch effort to iron out differences over trade in autos and auto parts as well as flat glass.

Hashimoto said he and Kantor will meet again Wednesday morning to follow up working-level discussions that will continue until late Tuesday.

No other details were disclosed.

Hashimoto, who arrived in the U.S. capital early Tuesday, met Brown and Kantor at the Commerce Department for about one hour, then moved to Kantor's office for one-to-one talks for about 50 minutes.

Hashimoto serves as the top Japanese negotiator in the auto and auto parts sector, which Japanese and U.S. officials have described as the thorniest issue in the so-called framework talks.

The United States has threatened to impose sanctions against Japan if no agreement is reached by Friday, the U.S.-imposed deadline for possible sanctions.

Kantor separately told reporters he spoke with Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono by telephone and will meet Kono in Washington on Friday instead of Wednesday as scheduled.

Kono, who is now in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session, serves as Japan's chief trade negotiator in government procurement of telecommunications and medical equipment.

In the framework talks top priority is being given to auto and auto parts trade, insurance and Japanese Government procurement practices regarding telecommunications and medical equipment.

MOFA, MITI Concerned

OW2809073794 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 7

[Column: "MITI Minister Hashimoto To Respect Foreign Minister Kono's Spheres—MITI Is Concerned About Hashimoto's Visit to the United States"]

[Text] Administrative officials at both the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] are nervous about MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's sudden visit to the United States.

When MITI Minister Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Kono visited the United States one after the other in early September, Hashimoto met with U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] Mickey Kantor ahead of Kono, and discussed the whole field of the Japan-U.S. framework talks. Therefore, the "MITI-MOFA discord" was pointed out.

In announcing Hashimoto's U.S. visit, MITI Administrative Vice Minister Hideaki Kumano explained: "Topics will be the automobile and auto parts sector and flat glass, which are under MITI's jurisdiction." The vice minister thus emphasized MITI Minister Hashimoto would not touch the government procurement sector, which is Foreign Minister Kono's responsibility.

Nevertheless, although the next round of Kono-Kantor talks are set for 28 September in New York, there is a great possibility that Hashimoto will hold talks with USTR Kantor on the previous day due to reasons of his itinerary. USTR Kantor reportedly has a strong impression of the MITI minister, who clearly speaks his mind.

Since the topics for Hashimoto-Kantor talks will most likely cover the whole field of the framework talks, it is felt that the MITI minister will inevitably refer to the sector in the foreign minister's charge.

Because of the hard-line U.S. attitude, it remains uncertain what kind of results will be brought by the MITI minister's visit. There are rather few optimistic prospects. However, if the MITI minister achieves some results, this will involve the honor of the foreign minister.

A senior MITI official said: "Japan and the United States are taking the same boat. The breakdown of the talks is by no means favorable." Originally, MITI and MOFA were supposed to be in the same boat of the Japanese Government. Will the foreign minister and the MITI minister be able to row the boat together in amity?

Tokyo 'Stands Ready'

OW2809014394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0131 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—Japan stands ready to negotiate with the United States beyond the Sept. 30 deadline set by the U.S. for possible trade sanctions if no agreement is reached on a new trade framework, a Japanese official suggested Wednesday [27 September].

"It's important not to make a fuss about Sept. 30 as the deadline," the official said on condition of anonymity, while acknowledging that auto trade is the thorniest issue in the stalled framework talks.

"Although it appears not easy for the U.S. (to make concessions) out of consideration for the midterm congressional elections, what we can do is to make an effort not to undermine Japan-U.S. relations," the official said.

The official made the remarks as International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is in Washington for talks with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown.

Kono, Kantor To Meet 30 Sep

OW2809023194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0222 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor will meet in Washington on Friday, the U.S.-imposed deadline in the bilateral "framework" trade talks, in a final-hour attempt to reach an agreement, Japanese officials said Tuesday [27 September].

The two senior officials agreed to the meeting during a telephone conversation Tuesday night, the officials said.

Kono, who is in New York attending the UN General Assembly session, discussed with Kantor the issue of government procurement of telecommunications and medical equipment, they said. The Japanese Government's procurement of such equipment is one of the three "priority" areas in the framework talks. The other two concern auto and auto parts trade and insurance business.

Kono said he will closely monitor Kantor's talks with Japanese Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is in Washington attempting to reach a deal on the auto, auto parts and the flat glass sectors, they said.

Hashimoto met Kantor Tuesday evening and will meet again Wednesday morning before leaving for Japan later the same day to attend the opening session of an extraordinary Diet session.

Government To 'Do Its Best' To Settle Talks

OW2809040894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0352 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—The Japanese Government will do its best to settle the "framework" trade talks with the United States by the U.S.-imposed deadline Friday [30 September], Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said Wednesday.

Igarashi made the remark at a news conference while commenting on the scheduled meeting Friday between Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Washington, which is a last-ditch attempt to reach an agreement.

Igarashi declined to say what Japan would do if the talks broke down and the U.S. moved to impose trade sanctions against Japan.

Reportage on Kono Attending UN General Assembly

KYODO Summarizes Kono Speech

OW2809004394 Tokyo KYODO in English 2323 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—Following is a summary of Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono's address to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday [27 September].

Japan's Basic Philosophy on International Contributions

Recalling the blessings bestowed upon Japan by the international community at the time of its admission into this organization, I intend to conduct a proactive foreign policy that will enable Japan to contribute, on a level commensurate with its political and economic status, to the future well-being of humankind.

Reflecting with remorse on World War II, Japan has never wavered from its commitment to contribute to world peace and prosperity. Japan does not, nor will it, resort to the use of force prohibited by its constitution. Japan will remain resolutely a nation of peace.

Japan intends to continue to cooperate actively in UN peacekeeping operations.

Disarmament and Nonproliferation

As the only country to have suffered a nuclear attack, and adhering firmly to its three nonnuclear principles, Japan strives to achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons.

Japan supports the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

At the same time, I would urge, in particular, all nuclear-weapons states to engage more actively in the negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty and to strive to bring them to an early and successful conclusion. Once the negotiations on the treaty are concluded, I wish to propose that a ceremony for its signing by heads of state or government be held in Japan, for example in the city of Hiroshima.

Japan strongly calls upon North Korea to engage in international dialogue, including talks with the United States, to resolve the issue of nuclear development.

Prevention and Settlement of Regional Conflicts

Convinced of the importance of taking measures before conflicts become intractable, I am a strong advocate of the vigorous promotion of preventive diplomacy.

The Japanese Government has decided to dispatch more than 400 members of its Self-Defense Forces to the region to provide assistance in such areas as medical treatment, water supply and air transport. Some of these activities have already commenced.

Development

As the world's largest donor country, Japan continues its efforts to expand its official development assistance. In extending such assistance, it gives full consideration to such factors as trends in the recipient country's military expenditures and in its development and production of weapons of mass destruction, as well as its efforts to promote democracy and introduce a market-oriented economy.

Reforming the UN to Adapt to the New Era

In keeping with Japan's basic philosophy regarding international contributions which I outlined earlier, I wish to state that Japan is prepared, with the endorsement of many countries, to discharge its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council.

The passage of a half-century since the signing of the UN Charter has rendered the so-called former enemy clauses meaningless. Japan continues to seek their deletion from the text of the UN Charter.

Avoids Mention of Hiroshima Bombing

OW2809062194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0459 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono may have left the U.S. atomic-bombing of Hiroshima out of a speech he gave Tuesday [27 September] to avoid further outcry in the United States on a planned exhibit of the Enola Gay, the B-29 bomber which dropped the bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, according to sources.

In a speech he gave before the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Kono urged all nuclear powers to conclude a treaty to totally ban nuclear tests at an early date and proposed that a ceremony for the signing of the pact be held in Hiroshima.

Although he originally planned to describe the Japanese city as "the site of the world's first nuclear tragedy," he deleted the expression when he actually made the speech.

Speculation is rife that the Japanese foreign minister made the omission to avoid trouble at a time when the Smithsonian Institute's plans to display the Enola Gay are creating a stir in the U.S.

"I thought Kono did so out of consideration of the Enola Gay issue," a Japanese diplomatic source in the UN said.

Kono has denied the speculation, however.

Last week, the U.S. Senate called for changes to the Smithsonian's project, saying the exhibit, planned for May 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the war with Japan, lacks balance and offends the U.S. war veterans.

He maintained the remarks that were left out would have been a repetition of an earlier comment in the speech that describes Japan as "the country to have suffered a nuclear attack."

He also said he wanted to avoid having the name of Hiroshima come to the fore since this is the first time Japan proposed inviting a ceremony for the signing of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

Kono Meets With Butrus-Ghali

OW2809062094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 - Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono told UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Tuesday [27 September] Japan will contribute 200 million dollars to the peacekeeping operations budget, Japanese officials said.

Kono also told the UN chief in a 15-minute meeting Japan is ready to extend 3 million dollars to pay for Palestinian police in the new Palestinian Autonomous Zone in the Gaza Strip, the officials said.

Butrus-Ghali welcomed the UN peacekeeping funding and the offer of assistance to the Middle East, they said.

The UN chief also gave high marks to Japan's dispatch of Self-Defense Forces personnel to Zaire to help Rwandan refugees there.

He requested international assistance to fund the relocation of former Rwandan Government soldiers to an area 150 kilometers away from the refugee camps in Goma, Zaire, the officials said.

Kono, who delivered a speech before the UN General Assembly earlier in the day, urged Butrus-Ghali to continue his push for reform of the UN Security Council.

The UN Chief replied that support from UN members is essential to carry out reform and called on international leaders to back his efforts, they said.

McKinnon, Kono Discuss UN Role

OW2809010494 Tokyo KYODO in English 2325 GMT 27 Sep 94

[By Miu Oikawa Dieter]

[Text] New York, Sept. 27 KYODO—New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon expressed hope Tuesday [27 September] that Japan would boost participation in UN peacekeeping missions, Japanese officials said.

McKinnon told Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono in a 45-minute meeting that he hopes Japan will study the UN peacekeeping operations and participate more fully in them, the officials said.

Kono replied Japan wants to make international contributions commensurate with its power and that it wants to decide on the participation cautiously because it still lacks experience.

McKinnon, who is also a minister for foreign affairs and trade, reiterated New Zealand's support for Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, they said.

Turning to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Kono told McKinnon that Japan recognizes its importance and expressed hope that the upcoming ministerial meeting and the informal summit meeting will be successful, the officials said.

Touching on the problems of North Korea's alleged nuclear arms development, Kono said Japan considers it essential that Pyongyang come clean on its past, present and future nuclear program.

Tokyo To Build Public Consensus on UNSC Seat

OW2809053494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0513 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—The Japanese Government will try harder to achieve consensus among the people of Japan on the country's attempt to win a permanent seat on the UN Security Council [UNSC], Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said Wednesday [28 September].

"Although we have discussed the issue from various angles and tried hard to seek public understanding on necessary occasions, we will do so in the future, too," the top government spokesman said at a news conference.

As some public opinions polls showed, he said, consensus has, in fact, been steadily building among Japanese people.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono made a formal declaration of Japan's candidacy for the Security Council place on Tuesday during his speech to the UN General Assembly.

"I wish to state that Japan is prepared, with the endorsement of many countries, to discharge its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council," Kono said.

Following Kono's UN Speech, Igarashi said in a statement that Japan will try to make a greater international contribution within the bounds of its pacifist Constitution.

While noting the need to reform the United Nations, Igarashi reiterated Japan will play an active role in tackling such global issues as disarmament, environmental protection and population growth, but will not play a combat role.

Article 9 of Japan's 1947 Constitution forbids the threat of use of force in resolving international conflicts.

Also on Wednesday, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Kono's UN speech made clear Japan will play its due part in UN reform efforts and become a permanent member of the Security Council if recommended.

Japan-U.S. Joint Development of TMD Opposed

OW2809080194 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "We Object To the Start of Japan-U.S. Joint Development of TMD"]

[Text] Japan-U.S. joint development of the theater missile defense (TMD) project is about to start.

The Defense Agency [DA] has asked for 20 million yen as the cost of TMD survey and research in its budget request for fiscal 1995, and DA Director General Tokuichiro Tamazawa and other government officials have visited the United States to agree with U.S. officials on the start of the Japan-U.S. joint development of the TMD.

TMD is primarily designed to detect enemy tactical and medium-range ballistic missiles with reconnaissance satellites or airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft, and intercept them with the theater high-altitude area defense (THADD) system, the modified version of Patriot missiles and missiles fired from Aegis ships.

The United States aims to complete the joint development of the TMD after 2002. An American model of the TMD is a megasystem, the development of which will cost as much as 2 trillion yen.

Since this spring, the United States has called on Japan and its allies to participate in developing the TMD. U.S. Congress has approved the budget for TMD research and development under the "Defense Appropriations Act" on condition that U.S. allies participate in the research and development. The view is surfacing that the United States expects Japan to share the cost of developing the TMD and provide advanced technology for its development.

Of the U.S. allies, Britain has agreed with the start of the joint development of the TMD and South Korea has expressed strong interest in the joint development. However, Germany and France have refused to participate in the joint development and they are said to be undertaking research on developing their own TMD.

In Japan's case, North Korea has succeeded in test-firing the Nodong 1, a medium-range missile and the mood for Japan's participation in TMD joint development has grown among some DA officials.

We have raised questions about spending a huge amount on developing the TMD, the effectiveness of which still remains unclear since its blueprint was first taken up between Japan and the United States for discussion and warned that the government should rather continue diplomatic efforts to coax North Korea into giving up the development of that missile.

We cannot help but disagree with the way the DA had handled the question of Japan's participation in the joint development of the TMD before Japan and the United States have agreed on the joint development of the TMD and we would like to indicate several points of our disagreement.

As the most important point, at the Japan-U.S. defense summit meeting held in mid-May, DA Director General Tamazawa explained that a report compiled by the "Defense Affairs Panel," a private advisory body for the prime minister, pointed out the need to equip Japan with the TMD and notified the U.S. that "Japan will seriously study the possibility of participating in the joint development of the TMD."

The Defense Affairs Panel, in its report submitted this summer to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, said: "In concert with the United States, Japan should vigorously seek to become capable of coping with ballistic missiles."

What matters in this regard is that the report was a "simple proposal" and it has not been adopted as a policy. Nonetheless, the DA director general explained about the report at an official meeting with U.S. officials and his statement could give the United States an misunderstanding that "Japan has already decided to introduce the TMD."

Clarifying the agreement reached between Japan and the United States, DA has said Japan has not yet decided to introduce the TMD. However, the accumulation of established fact could lead Japan to participate in the joint development of the TMD and introduce it.

Of the ruling parties, the Social Democratic Party of Japan and Sakigake [Harbinger Party] are taking a stance against the TMD on the ground that the TMD's cost-effectiveness still remains unclear. The Diet has adopted a resolution calling for the peaceful use of space and the Constitution prohibits Japan from exercising the collective-defense right. Hence, Japan's participation in the joint development of the TMD raises several problems.

The government must hold full discussions on whether it is reasonable to start the joint development of the TMD and appropriate the costs of its survey and research at a time when the disarmament mood is growing around the world. Depending on the circumstances, the government also must strictly check the costs when it compiles the budget for fiscal 1995. We believe that Japan should not build a military system that could make it see other Asian nations as hypothetical hostile nations.

International Role for 21st Century Outlined

942B0144A Tokyo SEIRON in Japanese Aug 94 pp 132-142

[Article by Etsuji Onuki, security treaty problems researcher]

[Text] *What jeopardizes us and the nation's security is not limited to military threats. Obviously, there are such other threats to the existence of human beings as the environment, population, and AIDS. Then, the concept of "security treaty" must change also.*

A security treaty is essential to the existence of a nation and is one of the most important national policies. However, its form and meaning have been changing according to the times. Prior to World War I, individual security was stressed. In such an environment, survival of the fittest was the norm, and the war ensued. During the aftermath of the war, the League of Nations was born as a collective security system. However, it didn't function well, and another war—World War II—broke out. After reconsidering how the League of Nations should be and eradicating its weaknesses, the United Nations was born. But it does not necessarily meet the needs of the time.

As a drastic change was brought out by the end of the cold war and the 21st century is now around the corner, I would like to reexamine how a security treaty should be, with some reference to international contributions.

1. New Threats and a New Security Treaty

As the cold war ended, the East-West conflict based on the U.S.-Soviet axis was dissolved. But, as the control system of the two superpowers weakened or collapsed, many internal contradictions are erupting in various parts of the world. Although the risk of an all-out nuclear war by the two superpowers has disappeared, regional conflicts, such as a tribal war in Yugoslavia, a former Soviet-bloc country, are becoming conspicuous and on the rise. As these conflicts are entwined with racial and religious issues, they are charged with the danger of developing into a large-scale international conflict, going beyond bilateral disputes.

In addition to proliferation of weapons for mass destruction, especially of nuclear weapons, buildups of conventional weapons have been on the rise in certain regions. Combined with a large number of such dangerous facilities as nuclear reactors and chemical plants, these buildups pose threats of damage equivalent to those caused by weapons for mass destruction. Although these are new threats, they are still military in nature.

On the other hand, new threats that cross national boundaries are increasingly evident: 1) food shortages, poverty, emergence of refugees and displaced persons, an increase in population that causes destruction of the environment, and human migration that creates social and economic dislocation on a global scale; 2) destruction of the environment on a global scale, such as global warming, destruction of the ozone layer, acid rain, disappearance of tropical forests, desertification, and pollution caused by nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons; 3) spread of AIDS on a global scale; and 4) disturbance to public peace and order due to internationalization of crimes, such as drug-trafficking and terrorism. These are nonmilitary in nature and considered as completely new types of threats.

There is no objection to the idea that military-related threats, even new ones, should be discussed as the agenda for a security treaty. However, there is an opinion that nonmilitary threats should never be included as topics for a security treaty. A typical example of this is the following view held by Mr. Osamu Umehara, a commentator on military affairs:

"A 'security treaty' is to ensure the safety of a nation through comprehensive efforts in three areas—diplomacy, economy, and military. It is a policy against foreign military aggression. And 'military strength' is used as a final resort when effort in the other two areas fails to produce any result and a military attack is actually occurring. This is a view commonly accepted in the world, but in Japan an expression like 'food security' is used regularly and confuses the public. In these issues pertaining to food and energy, we should talk in terms of 'safe supply'" (morning edition of SANKEI SHIMBUN, 23 October 1991).

By nature, however, a security treaty is to "ensure the safety of a nation from external threats," and these threats are not limited to military threats. As a nation is an amalgam of its territory, citizens, and sovereignty, protection of its general public from nonmilitary threats should also be considered as a part of a security treaty.

In reality, therefore, if a domestic society is thrown into chaos by a massive influx of refugees due to food, environment, and economic reasons, our nation's security is not considered as guaranteed, even when the safety is ensured against external military threats. Control and stabilization of population in developing countries are necessary security issues for developed countries to maintain the stability of their domestic societies.

Also, even if security is guaranteed against such direct external threats as foreign aggression and massive influx of refugees, our national security is not considered guaranteed if our citizens feel insecure of their daily lives because of inflows of international crimes and so on. Maintenance of public peace and order that is linked directly to our people's lives is felt most directly—it is security that affects the foundation of our nation's existence. As a matter of fact, in the United States, killing and wounding, although their causes are internal in nature, are everyday affairs, and the success or failure in maintaining public peace and order is likely to determine the future of that country's existence.

Also, even when security against intentional external threats is ensured, our national security is not considered guaranteed if our citizens' lives are threatened by invasion of highly communicable diseases. Establishment of a health-care system is a minimum requirement for security, relating to maintenance of human resources.

Moreover, even when security is ensured against such external threats as foreign aggression, refugees, international crimes, and diseases, our national security is not considered guaranteed if food supplies are cut off due to some external circumstances. Establishment of a food supply system can be considered as a security issue without a treaty partner and must be dealt with on our own.

Finally, even when security against intentional or unintentional external threats is ensured, our national security cannot be considered guaranteed if the earth itself—the foundation of a nation's existence—is completely destroyed. Conservation of the global environment is a prerequisite for all types of a security treaty, including a military-based one. A security treaty in the future must expand its scope to include the aspects of nonmilitary threats.

Then, what should our nation do? As a change in our thinking process is sought, instead of taking a passive role of following the majority, we should deal actively with these issues in both military and nonmilitary areas by demonstrating our national character, with a drive to create a new international order. As our nation is an economic superpower, every action we take, whether our citizens realize it or not, will affect the international community to a certain extent. Therefore, we are not allowed to refrain from participating in some specific areas.

Relating to this point, Masayoshi Takemura, representative of the New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], asserts that we should make contributions particularly in nonmilitary areas as "a small but shining nation." It is all right to pursue an ideal, but his assertion seems to ignore the reality that our country has achieved the status of an economic superpower. On the other hand, Ichiro Ozawa, representative and secretary general of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], asserts that we should also make contributions in military areas commensurate with our status as a "normal nation." As a politician, he seems to understand the reality, but he tends to cater to international vicissitudes, and lacks an attitude to pursue an ideal.

In any event, international cooperation is essential in dealing with the issue of a security treaty either in military or nonmilitary areas from the perspective of all humankind. Therefore, along with various policy measures in military and nonmilitary areas, it is important to generate a sense of community sharing the same fate as "earthmen" by fostering a sense of global citizenship through information exchange, finding and eradicating such common enemies of humankind as AIDS, and pursuing such common dreams as exploration and development of the universe and the deep sea. It is like the two wheels of a cart. Of course, our nation can make contributions only because of our economic strength. Therefore, it goes without saying that continuing economic growth is important.

In the following, I would like to express my basic thoughts on this issue, first on a security treaty in military areas, and second on a security treaty in nonmilitary areas.

2. A Security Treaty in Military Areas

According to an estimate made by the Earth Summit's Secretariat for "Agenda 21," an action plan to rejuvenate the Earth that was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, an average annual cost for developing countries to implement the 21 agendas [for the years 1993 through 2000] is more than $600 billion, including $125 billion to be contributed as gifts or with relaxed conditions by the international community. As it relates to the foundation of a nation's existence, such expenditures seem absolutely necessary. In addition to the increasing number of countries, including the old Soviet Union and East European countries, that seek assistance as developing nations, the cost of PKO [peacekeeping operations] is also increasing rapidly. As a result, the cost of solving problems on a global scale has become enormous.

As this enormous cost is beyond the means not only of the advanced countries that are suffering from economic slowdowns, but also of our nation as an economic superpower, it is impossible to raise new funds. Therefore, this cost should be covered somehow within the available funds. The only conceivable way of raising more funds is to cut the huge military spending—which is estimated to be $1 trillion per year in the world—by half. In other words, we need to carry out arms reduction on a massive scale. During 40-odd years since the end of World War II, regional and domestic wars have killed more than 17 million people; they are still producing nearly a million victims each year and are creating a huge number of refugees. Arms reduction, therefore, is necessary also to solve this kind of situation.

First, we must create an environment that does not require armaments.

In promoting a drastic arms reduction, we can no longer rely on individual security, a traditional means of defending national security by each country. It is inconceivable for any country to risk arms reduction on its own, because mutual distrust still exists in today's world, and countries are expanding their armaments in various degrees.

Therefore, it is urgently necessary to establish a system where each country can feel safe to reduce its armaments. One approach is to have the international community as a whole ensure the security of each individual nation. In other words, we need to establish a collective security system, centering on the United Nations. Another approach is to foster mutual trust, which will eliminate the need for armaments.

A collective security system is at the core of a security treaty in military areas. In establishing such a system, it is important to draw a blueprint of how the system should be and how to create it. As we claim to be a peace-loving nation and advocate the UN-centered approach, it is our turn to come forward.

In order to make the collective security system reliable, superpowers must exercise self-restraint and hold their allies in check. Also, in order to solve self-contradictions in such a system, it is necessary to elevate the reason for a fight, even in case of using armed forces, from "justice versus justice"—a fight between those on the same level—to "justice versus injustice"—a fight between those on different levels. In other words, it is important to establish international justice. Although a member of the Western bloc, our country is situated at a crossroads between the East and the West; as a member of the Asian community and as a latecomer to join the advanced countries, we are able to understand the pains of growth that developing countries are experiencing; in terms of culture, race, and religion, we have a capacity to absorb differences—in all these aspects our country is in a position suited for appealing to the collective will of the international community, and this is where we must focus our efforts.

One thing that must be done is to establish codes of conduct for the international community when intervention is needed. For example, it is necessary to distinguish the case of sending personnel to PKO's that require the use of armed forces from the traditional ones that do not. Another point is to avoid double standards through fair and just application of such codes of conduct without regard to the identity of the parties in dispute.

In addition to establishing international justice, we as a nation must make our position clear, and if, due to our Constitution, we cannot participate in PKO's that require active use of armed forces, we should participate willingly in traditional types of PKO's anywhere in the world, including PKF [peacekeeping forces] that do not require the use of armed forces. This is because it is a logical approach for us to apply brakes on those UN activities centering on Western ideas that make no bones about using weapons—as in the case of shooting and killing of Mr. Hattori—and to devote ourselves to the creation of an international community that will not rely on the use of armed forces.

As any country with armed forces can participate in militaristic operations, we must encourage participation by smaller nations in these kinds of operations as much as possible so as to show them that these operations are being undertaken as a result of the international community's consensus, and also to promote international democracy. On our part, we must seek our own unique ways to participate by focusing on such areas as technology and maritime activities that other nations find difficult to conduct.

Of course, as a prerequisite, it is necessary also to carry out reform of the United Nations. In particular, membership in the UN Security Council, which is in charge of the international community's peace and safety, needs to be reorganized according to the regional, racial, and religious mixes, as well as the actual level of each country's contribution in and its ability to contribute to the maintenance of international peace so that it will truly represent the international community.

On the other hand, it is necessary to foster mutual trust in both military and nonmilitary areas. With regard to the former, we should actively promote exchanges of military personnel and, if possible, joint military exercises between our Self-Defense Forces and the military forces of our friendly nations as well as of other nations. By having sound communications among military personnel, we may be able to deter vanity-oriented wars by national leaders and to avoid unnecessary combat based on misunderstandings. With regard to the latter, we must create an environment where governments cannot use their armed forces for their vanity by promoting mutual trust actively at the level of local communities and private organizations.

Second, we must create an environment that will make it difficult to increase armaments.

An attempt to create an environment that does not require armaments will not by itself make it easy to achieve arms reduction, because national interests still take precedence over international solidarity. Therefore, it is necessary also at the same time to create an environment that will make an arms increase difficult.

One approach is to make it difficult to obtain weapons and military technology. For example, the international community as a whole should have control over exports of weapons and transfers of military technology. Here, along with control over exports and transfers, imports and inward transfers must be controlled by some means, because, in general, demand leads to exports and transfers.

Another approach is to limit the amount of military spending. For example, by combining the costs of military spending and ODA [official development assistance], we must limit the amount of ODA allocated to those nations with heavy military spending. Here, the Defense Agency can compute and determine which nations have heavy military spending, because the optimal level of military preparedness in peacetime can be computed according to the theory of basic defense capabilities. Also, in order to promote the establishment of a collective security system, which is a prerequisite for arms reduction, we should introduce a positive evaluation system in addition to the traditional evaluation system that points out negatives only. For example, we should evaluate positively those countries that are participating actively in PKO or seriously controlling exports of weapons and transfers of military technology, and give them an increase in the amount of allocation.

3. A Security Treaty in Nonmilitary Areas

Only a handful of advanced countries, including Japan, the United States, and Germany, have enough funds and scientific and technological know-how to contribute to security in nonmilitary areas. Cooperating with these countries, our nation must assume an active role.

Especially because our nation has rebuilt itself to its current level by crawling out from the bottom after the war's end, we have accumulated many experiences, including the know-how of the development process, that can be of help to the international community. Such experiences include environmental protection, as a nation that had a high level of pollution; health care, as a nation with the best longevity record in the world; education, as a nation with the highest literacy rate in the world; domestic peace and order, as a nation with the best system of public peace and order in the world; and science and technology, as a nation with the highest level of scientific and technological know-how in the world.

Based on these experiences, our nation should contribute in our own unique way, aiming to become a Ministry of Environment for the world as our foremost objective, and at the same time striving to become Ministries of Welfare, Education, Police, and Science and Technology for the world. By doing so, I believe we will be able to become a nation that truly cooperates with the United Nations.

Among the areas mentioned above, protection of the global environment is the largest theme. As represented in our rice and forest culture, we have a symbiotic relationship with nature. Therefore, we should become enthusiastically involved in building a new civilization to be shared equally by the international community, taking up a challenge of creating a new civilization that will replace the nature-destroying civilization of today. This will be the best contribution we can make for the international community. And, it will also provide us a chance to free ourselves from the "imitated civilization" originated in the Western world and to return to our own style of civilization.

In the following, I would like to point out how to deal with these various threats, beginning with the most direct one.

Here, however, in order to stop population explosion, it is necessary to raise living standards and to spread education. This will necessitate a suitable level of development, which will lead to consumption of more energy and resources, and thus will result in environmental destruction. These are interlinked, and must be dealt with in a comprehensive manner.

First, we must establish a system to assist developing nations in limiting and stabilizing their population and in developing.

Our nation has become one of the best destinations for economic refugees to find jobs. Therefore, in order to sustain the level of our public peace and order that we can be most proud of in the world and to maintain the current social security system that has been accumulated by the effort of each of our citizens, we must deal actively with population control and stabilization as well as [economic] development.

In the area of population control, our nation changed its policy from the prewar encouragement of "more births and more population" to the postwar limit on population explosion. In 10 years, we decreased the rate of population increase from 4 percent to 1 percent. Based on this experience, we should provide the know-how to developing countries at a similar stage. As population control costs a significant amount of money, we must also provide active financial assistance to these countries.

Regarding development that is necessary for population control and stabilization, we must not only provide economic and technological assistance to these countries but also help them expand their trade. In the long run, the latter is more important than increasing the amount of financial aid, because it will help these countries generate the funds necessary for development, promoting self-development. Therefore, as the prices of primary products have been low, we should cooperate actively with those countries that need to increase exports of furniture and other value-added products.

However, what is most important is to develop human resources. It takes a long time, but should be dealt with along with the aforementioned policy measures. In particular, we can provide developing countries with our know-how in this area, and at the same time increase drastically the amount of aid for elementary school education—at present, allocation to such aid is less than 1 percent of the total amount of aid provided by advanced countries.

Second, we must establish an international system of maintaining public peace and order.

Basically, we must try to establish a system to control international crimes. In this area, the International Police Organization [Interpol] exists at present. However, this organization is not based on treaties; it is merely a cooperative organization for various countries' detectives and policemen. As a result, it does not have the rights for coercive search and arrest, and it has a limited role as a central processing unit to disseminate information on crimes internationally. It is regarded as a nongovernmental organization by the United Nations. Therefore, we need to raise the status of this organization to a formal, international level, giving it at least the rights of coercive search and arrest for vicious organized crimes.

Particularly in narcotics (in broad terms) and terrorism, we must first realize that the problems cannot be solved unless they are dealt with by the international community as a whole, and come up with appropriate actions. Oftentimes, people produce narcotics to escape from their poverty. Therefore, we must not only control the demand side but also look at the supply side, promoting sustainable [economic] development. This kind of measure is not very effective in controlling terrorism motivated by religious reasons. In this case, we need to find solutions to the fundamental problems. Although this kind of effort is time-consuming, we should strive to break away from the present condition where only the Western value system is highly regarded, and to build an international society where other different values can also be respected.

Still, what is most necessary for our nation is to change our perspective on public peace and order, as Hideyoshi Toyotomi said in banning the bearing of swords [among commoners]: "Peace and order can be attained naturally." In contrast to material things, public peace and order, once lost, are difficult to be restored. Especially in order to prevent crimes from becoming Americanized, we must make serious efforts to tighten our system of gun control.

4. AIDS Is Also a Threat to Security

Third, we must establish an international system of health-care services.

There are signs of AIDS spreading rapidly in the world. Although AIDS is a disease without national boundaries, international efforts in dealing with this problem seem inadequate, because there is a wide difference in occurrence ratios and respect for life among countries, and also because the matter affects the dignity of each nation. Considering the fact that AIDS is spreading at a rapid pace, however, we must overcome our national pride by publicly announcing the current level of spread of the disease at an early stage and strengthening contacts with various countries' research and medical institutions—we need to establish a system of international cooperation as soon as possible to eradicate the disease.

Our nation has produced internationally renowned intellectuals, and the medical field is our forte. As AIDS is expected to spread explosively in Asia in the short run, we, as a member of the Asian community, must do everything in our power to prevent its spread through NGO [nongovernment organizations] and to develop medicines by orchestrating the best in science and technology.

In the long run, we must try to establish an international medical center for research and treatment in the future to spot diseases at their early stages that are likely to spread internationally, and to specialize in eradication of such diseases. Different from the traditional aid in materials, this effort will be directly linked to human life. Also, as medical treatments are conducted on the basis of humanism, going beyond differences in race and wealth, they will open up the hearts of the people in Asia and raise Japan's image as a peace-loving nation. They can also become the means of strategic importance means, as the saying goes that those who have control over life have control over mankind.

Here, as a maritime nation, we should also consider creating an international medical group equipped with self-sufficient, hospital-like ships that can be sent to various regions with widespread cases of diseases without national borders.

Fourth, we must establish an international system of food supply.

The most important thing in discussing the food issue is to realize that unlike other materials, the lack of food instantly becomes a matter of life or death, and that if it worsen in scale, it will create a serious situation from a security standpoint. Unlike appliances or cars, when food becomes scarce, people will fight for it immediately, escalating into a bloody war, or they will make a large-scale migration in search of food. There are many examples of these incidents in the past and present, be they in the West or in the East. Also, in inverse proportion to an increase in population, food is becoming increasingly scarce.

Therefore, we need to establish an international system of food supply as soon as possible. As there is a strong possibility of food crisis at the worldwide level due to weather changes in the short run and population explosion in the long run, we must make a comprehensive plan, considering both production and storage, for the entire human community. By changing the basic stance on agriculture from the food defense—how to protect [the domestic agricultural industry] from import—to the food security—how to secure a food supply, we must establish a system of food production and storage.

Our nation should strive for self-sufficiency by maintaining the existing rice paddies by giving farmers an income guaranty (this is also considered as the cost of environmental protection measures), and by raising food inventories by developing advanced means of food storage, like vacuum packing in polyethylene bags. Food must be available when needed, and considering a worldwide decline in arable land due to such problems as desertification, it is our responsibility to the entire human community to maintain good arable land. Also, we should not allow people with money to buy up rice and put countries with food shortages into a dire plight.

On the other hand, it is difficult for even a country with huge food supply to continue providing food to other countries. Therefore, we must assist those countries with a limited food supply to establish a self-supporting system. Although our cities were dilapidated by bombings during World War II, owing to the strength of our farming villages, we were able to absorb a large number of returning soldiers and to reconstruct our nation. Based on this experience, our nation should promote a program of agricultural buildup, teaching the developing countries our know-how on agricultural villages and transferring our agricultural technologies to improve their efficiency in producing rice and other crops.

5. Green PKO

Fifth, we must establish a system to protect the global environment.

Among new threats, destruction of the global environment is probably the most difficult problem to be dealt with, because in addition to its global scale, it is not easy to pinpoint a specific nation as the source of the threat, making it extremely difficult to control. Therefore, it is necessary to deal with the problem at the level of all humankind, rather than at the level of each individual nation. This is a perfect area to make international contributions for our nation—a nation of the rice and forest culture that has a symbiotic relationship with nature, a maritime nation surrounded by the ocean and sea, which greatly affect the environment, and the only nation that suffered large-scale environmental destruction by atomic bombs. We must deal actively with this issue.

One thing we must do is to establish a system to prevent environmental destruction at the level beyond a national border and to restore the environment that has been destroyed. In concrete terms, we should propose establishment of a "Global Environment Preservation Corps" (this could be called the Green PKO) as an international organization. The corps will be in charge of preserving the environment for the international community as a whole—survey and research, monitoring and observation, development and dissemination of treatment technologies, accident clean-ups, and so on. And, as a need arises, it will assist individual countries in their work to preserve the environment. However, if this proposal is considered premature, we should establish our own corps with the condition that it will be consolidated into an international body in the future.

In addition, we must declare that the environment is a foremost national concern. This is to appeal to the international community that our nation is going to tackle with the issue that affects all humankind. Here, in order to make it clear that preservation of the global environment—the foremost security issue in nonmilitary areas—and collective security—the foremost security issue in military areas—are the two indispensable wheels for a new security treaty, I think we should state this proudly in our Constitution.

Another thing we must do is to tighten up control on each individual nation to prevent its domestic environmental destruction from spilling over to other countries—although environmental destruction may spill over outside a nation to a certain extent, as there is no physical demarcation between countries. This is because such control has been neglected due to the orientation toward national interests in the current international community. Let's assume that the source of environmental destruction is within a territorial boundary of Nation A, and that such destruction is causing harm to Nation B, a neighboring nation. If the destruction is within a tolerable range for Nation B's citizens, it is considered as Nation A's domestic problem, and Nation A is not responsible to Nation B. However, if the destruction is beyond the tolerable range, Nation A must take responsibility. This should be considered as a matter of course, because a nation should not harm its neighboring countries, even though it has the right of sovereign power—rights and duties must go hand in hand. However, if such control is imposed equally in the international community, it may be unfair to those nations that need to develop [their economies] from now on. Therefore, we must devise some method to differentiate the levels of control depending on the stages of development, and deal with global environmental destruction on a global basis and regional environmental destruction on a regional basis.

Yet, even if control is tightened, it will still be difficult to prevent a spill-over of environmental destruction into other countries. Even with tightened control, environmental destruction is likely to spread even further so long as population keeps increasing and people continue to pursue higher living standards. Therefore, it goes without saying that we must take some drastic measures eventually, such as breaking away from the throw-away culture, that is, the industrial structure and lifestyle geared toward mass production, mass consumption, and mass disposition that were invented by the United States, and transforming a social structure into an economically thrifty model that is sustainable through conservation of energy.

Hoshuyama's 'Controversial' Remarks Creating Stir

OW2509143594 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 25 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Controversial remarks by Noboru Hoshuyama, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA], have created a stir. In a recent news conference in Naha, Okinawa, Hoshuyama said: "Okinawa should coexist with (U.S. military) bases by accepting their presence." Objection to his remarks only continues to mount. For example, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly and the Naha City Assembly have adopted resolutions of protest, and the local chapter of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] sent a notice to the party's headquarters on 23 September, threatening to sever ties with the latter. The government has issued a verbal warning to Hoshuyama via Tokuichiro Tamazawa, director general of the Defense Agency [DA]. However, from the standpoint of maintaining the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement, the government is faced with a dilemma because it cannot take further action, such as demanding Hoshuyama retract his remarks. The ripples caused by "careless remarks which disregarded the sentiments of the Okinawa people" (as stated by a close aide to the prime minister) continue to spread.

Objection Only Continues To Mount

Regarding Hoshuyama's remarks, Masaiye Ishihara, professor at the Okinawa Kokusai University, speaks in behalf of the Okinawan people, saying: "During World War II, military bases were built on Okinawa under a policy that called for the military, the government, and the people to exist together and perish together. As a result, a considerable number of victims perished during the ground battle with U.S. military forces. From this, the people learned that coexistence with military bases is a fallacy and that their presence only brings about collective destruction."

After Hoshuyama made his remarks, Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota and groups representing the local chapter of the SDPJ and the Okinawa Socialist Masses Party traveled to Tokyo to demand that, among other things, Hoshuyama retract his remarks, make an apology, and resign. About 10 municipal assemblies, including the Kadena Township Assembly, which has to deal with Kadena Air Base, have adopted resolutions of protest against Hoshuyama's remarks. In early October, the Okinawa Peace Movement Center, a citizens' organization, plans to hold a mass rally to demand Hoshuyama's resignation.

Even the local chapter of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], which has approved the presence of U.S. military bases on Okinawa, set up a committee last spring and has started to consider the possibility of drawing up defense policies that envisage complete removal of military bases from Okinawa.

Zenshun Arakaki, chairman of the local chapter of the SDPJ, has said: "The remarks imply forcing military bases upon the Okinawa people, who have suffered from their presence. We cannot tolerate such remarks at all."

The DA Will Not Step Back

DA Director General Tamazawa has issued a verbal warning to Hoshuyama, saying: "Full consideration has not been given regarding the feelings of the Okinawa people." Therefore, the DA considers that the matter has been settled for all practical purposes. Regarding the true intentions of Hoshuyama's remarks, the DA explained during a questioning of Hoshuyama by senior DA officials that in his remarks Hoshuyama "did not negate the retrenchment and consolidation of military bases and thus there is no change at all in the traditional defense policies."

Hoshuyama apologized to SDPJ Vice Chairman Kosuke Uehara, who hails from Okinawa, and others who complained about his remarks, saying: "I was tongue-tied." However, Hoshuyama refused to retract his remarks. The DA has also refused to withdraw the remarks out of strong consideration for the United States, saying: "It may give the United States a wrong impression instead, if we renounced a statement that the presence of military bases should be accepted" (as stated by a DA source).

The Government Which Cannot Take Action

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi has criticized Hoshuyama's remarks, saying: "A senior official who disregards the feelings of the people cannot be considered competent." However, he left it up to DA Director General Tamazawa's discretion regarding what procedures should be taken against Hoshuyama. In a news conference on 20 September, Igarashi indicated that the DA considered the matter settled to a certain degree with Tamazawa's issuing a verbal warning to Hoshuyama. This, however, has stirred up stronger objection in Okinawa. Thus, the government has its hands tied, trapped between the Okinawan peoples' sentiments and the need to maintain the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement.

DFAA Chief Apologizes

OW2709144294 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 27 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Tokyo—A delegation of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly led by Josei Shimoji (Liberal Democratic Party) and representing all political parties, met Noboru Hoshuyama, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA], on 26 September to lodge a strong protest over his comment that he hoped "Okinawa will shift its attitude in the direction of coexistence with the military bases." They said: "Coexistence has the affirmative meaning of cooperating voluntarily and willingly. To the people of Okinawa, this is a serious statement, and is indeed unacceptable."

The delegates demanded that Hoshuyama retract the remark, and assume serious responsibility for it.

In response, Hoshuyama apologized. He said: "It was my fault that I have greatly troubled the Okinawan people. I apologize deeply."

However, he reiterated the explanation he had offered for making the remark. To the Prefectural Assembly's repeated demand that he retract the remark, Hoshuyama avoided making any such commitment, and limited himself to saying: "I will talk this over with my superior (the director general of the Defense Agency [DA], who has the power to appoint the DFAA chief)."

The Okinawan delegation lodged the protest following a protest resolution passed by the Prefectural Assembly. Other members of the delegation included Katsuhide Higa, Zenko Hiranaka, Yoshihide Isa and Shigemasa Kinjo, representing the various political parties.

Shimoji first explained to Hoshuyama: "We would like you to take responsibility for the remark, including the possibility of resigning."

He said: "The remark has increased the Okinawans' anxiety and apprehensions. It is a serious statement in that it tried to impose ideas and beliefs. There is a wide perception gap between you and the Okinawans, who live with the military bases." He strongly criticized the remark.

Hoshuyama reiterated his explanation: "As the official responsible for administering the bases, and working on the assumption that we could retrench and consolidate the military bases, I simply expressed my thoughts straightforwardly on how to carry this out quickly and efficiently."

He said: "The statement was thoughtless. I have been reprimanded by DA Director General Tamazawa, DA Vice Minister Hatakeyama, and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Ishihara. I deeply regret what I did."

Shimoji continued: "We solemnly accept your apology. How about retracting the remark?"

Hoshuyama merely repeated: "I hope you will understand that, as someone who spares no effort in working on base issues, I merely expressed my thoughts taking into consideration the strong desire of the Okinawan people to retrench and consolidate the bases."

He reiterated his argument: "There can be no progress by insisting on the total withdrawal of the bases, because this has to be done on condition that replacement sites can be found."

Hoshuyama also indicated that when he said the "total withdrawal of bases is impossible" he also had in mind the plan to build a P3C communications facility in Motobu.

To the repeated demand that he retract his remark, Hoshuyama replied that he "will talk this over with his superior."

He ended the meeting by saying: "I hope you can find some way to coexist with the bases."

This led the Okinawan delegation to adopt an even tougher attitude. The delegates openly expressed their discontent, claiming: "The proper thing for him to do is to resign."

The delegation plans to ask Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi to make Hoshuyama resign on 27 September.

Apology From Cabinet Secretary

OW2809074694 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 28 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Tokyo—A Okinawa Prefectural Assembly delegation (led by Josei Shimoji) is now visiting Tokyo to protest Noboru Hoshuyama's, Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] director general, remarks that "it is hoped that Okinawa will shift its attitude in the direction of coexistence with the military bases." In this connection, Chief Cabinet Secretary Igarashi met the delegation on 27 September and said: "His remarks were not appropriate as a senior government official. I take seriously the Okinawan people's anger and protest resolution unanimously adopted by the prefectural assembly. As a member of the government, I would like to apologize." In this way, he showed his understanding of the situation. As for Hoshuyama's possible resignation to take responsibility, Igarashi said: "His boss is the Defense Agency [DA] director general, and I am not in the position to comment on this matter." However, at the same time, he said, "I will convey the reason for the protest to DA Director General Tamazawa, who is now visiting Rwanda, as soon as he returns," thus hinting that the DA may take some sort of action.

Previously, the chief cabinet secretary said that he thinks that the issue was settled when the DA director general reprimanded Hoshuyama.

During the two-day Tokyo visit from 26 to 27 September, the delegation met with DFAA Director General Hoshuyama, Chief Cabinet Secretary Igarashi, and DA Counselor Seiji Ema and called for the retraction of the remarks and Hoshuyama's resignation. However, they received no clear answer to the call.

After the meeting, the delegation held a news conference at the Okinawa Prefecture Tokyo Office and expressed dissatisfaction with the series of meetings, saying: "We can positively rate the fact that DFAA Director General Hoshuyama himself accepted our request to hold an open meeting, where we lodged a protest and he made a clear apology for his remarks; and that Chief Cabinet Secretary Igarashi seriously accepted the resolution and showed a sincere attitude. However, overall, judging from the government's attitude, including the DA, which merely sent Counselor Ema to a meeting with us, we have no choice but to say the government still takes the matter lightly. I think this issue will have a harmful impact on the future administration of the military bases."

Foreign Firms Plan Withdrawal From Stock Market

OW2609092994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 26 KYODO—Scott Paper Co. of the United States and British Gas plc will withdraw from the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE), and U.S. Borden Inc. is likely to pull out as well, TSE and company officials said Monday [26 September].

Scott Paper, based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and British Gas of London attributed the decision to sluggish trading of the Tokyo stock market and high maintenance costs.

British Gas also noted the complexity of procedures to continue to be listed on the exchange.

Meanwhile, TSE officials said Borden will likely be delisted from the TSE in the future although the time is not yet decided. That follows an announcement in the U.S. that an investment concern, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co., will acquire all of Borden's outstanding stock, which leads to delisting of Borden from the New York Stock Exchange.

Consideration on potential delisting of Borden will start Tuesday.

The decision to delist Scott Paper and British Gas will be finalized on Oct. 4 and take effect Dec. 31, bringing the total number of foreign companies left on the TSE to 93 or 92 if Borden withdraws.

There were 125 foreign companies listed on the TSE in 1990, but their numbers gradually began to decrease. There was no new listing this year and 17 enterprises, including Scott Paper and British Gas, plan to withdraw from the Japanese stock market.

Tokyo-Moscow Talks on Weapons Export Controls

OW2609085194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 26 KYODO—Japan and Russia opened negotiations in Tokyo Monday [26 September] on ways to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials.

Government officials said the three-day session at the Foreign Ministry is part of international efforts to work out a framework to control the international weapons trade.

A new international export controls organization is scheduled to be inaugurated this fall to replace the Coordinating Committee for Export Control to Communist area (Cocom), which was created by Western nations to control exports of strategic goods to communist nations during the Cold War era.

Russia is known as a major weapons exporter.

The officials said representatives from Japan and Russia will exchange views on export control systems in their respective nations and discuss ways to effectively manage the new organization.

The Japanese delegation consists of officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Finance as well as customs officials.

The Russian party includes officials in charge of customs and external trade and economic relations, the officials said.

Future Tokyo-Beijing Relations Discussed

OW2809100794 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Tokyo and Beijing remained at odds over the issue of the invitation to Taiwan Executive Yuan Vice President Hsu Li-te to visit Japan, despite foreign ministerial talks between the two sides in New York on 26 September. Although Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said at the talks China would take part in the Hiroshima Asian Games as scheduled, the two ministers failed to fill gaps over the propriety of Hsu Li-te's visit to Japan.

In this sense, there is no doubt that the Japanese Government faces a difficult problem. It failed to foresee such a strong reaction from the Chinese Government.

Meanwhile, a senior Foreign Ministry official stressed: "We know that China is sensitive on the issue of Taiwan. But we would have made the same decision even if China's objection had been expected." It can be said that amid the changing political climate in east Asia, where Taiwan is increasing its economic power and influence, Japanese-Chinese relations have entered a new, stormy stage.

"It was a decision of the Japanese Government made carefully in accordance with the spirit of the Japan-PRC joint statement," Vice Foreign Minister Saito explained to a news conference on 26 September when asked about the decision to allow Hsu Li-te to visit Japan. His remark made the point that Japan has no intention of changing its decision even if China protests against it. However, when asked about future relations with China, Saito said: "I do not think we should be optimistic," thus showing concern over the fact that relations have been affected.

The issue of the Taiwan leader's visit to Japan began when Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) chairman Shayk Ahmad al-Fahd sent Taiwanese President Li Teng-hu an invitation to the Hiroshima Asian Games. According to a Foreign Ministry source, when controversy arose, the Japanese saw the OCA's move as "troublesome." Later, in consideration of PRC representations, he withdrew the invitation and the Japanese Government stepped in and said Vice Premier Hsu Li-te could enter Japan as "chairman of the special committee on the 2001 Asian Games." With such moves, the issue seemed to be settled.

Beijing, however, reacted strongly to Japan's decision to invite Vice President Hsu Li-the in place of President Li, and the situation has changed course despite Japan's hopes. The events are taking place against a change in economic relations among Japan, the PRC, and Taiwan. Within the government, there is now a view that although priority should be given to relations with China, Japan should maintain certain non-governmental level relations with Taiwan because it has become a nation Japan cannot ignore economically.

The recent decision signifies that Japan has made clear to Taiwan that it intends to maintain its policy of "non-governmental level" exchanges. Within the government, there is also a growing feeling that Beijing is due a warning, partly because it insists on continuing nuclear testing in spite of international moves toward a moratorium on nuclear testing. This reflects a slight change in the way the government looks at the PRC.

One immediate issue is the question of whether Japan will extend the fourth set of loans to the PRC from fiscal 1996. Meanwhile, it is reported that China will conduct a further nuclear test.

The conflict over the Taiwan officials visit to Japan has created distrust between Beijing and Tokyo, and as a result of such conflict, there is the possibility that Japan-China relations will be harmed in various ways.

PRC To Allow Foreign Bank Branches in Beijing

OW2709083194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0811 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—China is likely to announce a decision next month to allow foreign banks to open branches in Beijing, Japanese Finance Ministry officials said Tuesday [27 September].

They said the announcement is expected to be made at a meeting of Japanese and Chinese Government officials on financial services.

Under the decision made by the Chinese State Council, equivalent to the Japanese cabinet, the first Japanese bank branch in Beijing is expected to open sometime next year.

The Bank of Tokyo and 21 other Japanese banks already have representative offices in Beijing and hope to upgrade them to branch status to better serve Japanese companies operating in China, the officials said.

To protect the domestic banking industry, China has allowed foreign banks to open branches only in 13 designated cities and Beijing is not among them.

KYODO, VNA Agree To Promote News Exchange

OW2709061694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0550 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, sept. 27 KYODO—KYODO NEWS SERVICE and VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) have agreed to cooperate in enhancing mutual exchange of economic news and information.

Signing a memorandum incorporating the agreement Monday [26 September], KYODO President Yasuhiko Inukai and VNA Director General Do Phong noted the economic development in the Asian region, particularly in Vietnam.

Do Phong led a VNA delegation which visited Japan for eight days from Sept. 19.

Do Phong expressed his agency's endorsement in principle of a KYODO proposal to upgrade a news package of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA), which would now cover more key economic and financial indicators in the region.

KYODO made the proposal at the general assembly meeting of the 30-member organization held in Beijing earlier this month.

Inukai assured Do phong of KYODO's cooperation in helping VNA strengthen its economic news coverage.

Defense Attache To Assess Security in Rwanda

OW2709175594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1455 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Johannesburg, Sept. 27 KYODO—A Japanese defense attache will visit Rwanda once a week to assess security for Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel in neighboring Zaire, SDF sources accompanying Defense Agency chief Tokuichiro Tamazawa said Tuesday [27 September].

The sources said the attache, from the Japanese embassy in the Egyptian capital of Cairo, will visit the Rwandan capital of Kigali to gather information for SDF personnel assisting Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire.

Kigali is the site of the headquarters of a UN peacekeeping force working in the country.

Members of the force keep a close watch for any attempt at resistance by members of the former Rwandan Army as well as monitoring the security situation on the eastern Zairean border.

The sources said the attache will stay in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi until the SDF personnel end their stay in Zaire in December.

Twenty Japanese military personnel who arrived in Goma, eastern Zaire, on Friday are preparing the way for a contingent of 100 SDF personnel who are expected to arrive Sunday as the first main party of the Japanese peacekeeping mission to assist Rwandan refugees.

Before arriving in South Africa, Tamazawa visited Rwanda and Zaire to assess refugee needs.

Opposition Parties Form New Lower House Bloc

OW2809050394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0226 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—Noncommunist opposition parties formed a new joint bloc in the House of Representatives on Wednesday [28 September] morning as the first stage in creating a new broad-based opposition party to rival the current coalition.

The 187-member group, called "Kaikaku (Reform)," includes legislators of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], Komeito [Clean Government Party], the Japan New Party, the Democratic Socialist Party and the Liberal Party. The group named former Health and Welfare Minister Tatsuo Ozawa as it head.

The new parliamentary group is next in size to the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has 200 members in the 511-member lower house.

The ruling coalition, which comprises the LDP, the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], commands 294 seats in the lower house.

The noncommunist opposition parties will also launch an interparty panel Wednesday [28 September] afternoon to prepare for the planned merger to form the new party in November.

The panel will formally choose Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa as chairman of its executive committee.

The opposition camp has been planning to merge into a single party since late June when the current coalition government of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama took power from a former ruling coalition led by then Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, leader of Shinseito.

Opposition leaders have called for the formation of opposition forces into a single bloc, saying smaller parties will have only a slim chance of gaining a majority in the lower house under a new electoral system, which combines 300 single-seat districts and 200 seats elected by proportional representation.

Ozawa as New Party Secretary General Analyzed

OW2809090194 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 26 Sep 94 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by Yasuyuki Oguri from the "Scope" column: "Clamor for Ozawa to Become Secretary General of the New-New Party"]

[Text] There is a lot of interest in what will happen to Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who has kept a low profile recently. This is because he has extensive support as a choice to become the "secretary general" of the new-new party [shin shinto] to be formed by the opposition parties, excluding the Japan Communist Party. Although he claims "he does not want the job," he is seen as certain to become the chairman of the executive committee of the preparatory committee for the new party. His reserve is probably a calculated move because "one can only exercise strong leadership if one assumes the post by popular demand."

At a news conference on 24 September, Ozawa said: "That is not true. I really do not want the job." When told that there was a clamor among the opposition parties for him to become the chairman of the executive committee of the preparatory committee for the new party, he denied it categorically.

Ozawa, who even tendered his resignation after the change of political regime in June, has made a big effort to look calm and to create the impression that he is "an entirely changed person." According to a senior Komeito official, even after he became the chairman of the liaison committee for the new party, he "rarely talked," devoted himself to listening, and assumed a low public profile.

However, the Jiyu Kaikaku Rengo [Liberal Reform Alliance] and other parties are inclined to think that "this is a performance with the aim of not only making Ozawa new party executive committee chairman, but also secretary general."

Ozawa knows very well that if he uses methods which could be taken as "highhanded" now, there will surely be a revival of the "Ozawa allergy," which has weakened somewhat recently. Not only will he reduce his chances of becoming secretary general the more he moves around, but it may even foul up his plans for the formation of the new-new party. With the formation of the new-new party expected to be put on course with the creation of a blanket parliamentary group and a new party preparatory committee on 28 September, Ozawa is being as careful as possible.

Thanks to Ozawa's low profile, the process of forming the new-new party has been going on smoothly in line with his plans, with no need found for him to say anything.

Komeito and others who count on Ozawa's abilities have been backing Ozawa's candidacy for secretary general from the sidelines, and have been instrumental in promoting his candidacy for the post of "executive committee chairman," which leads directly to the post of secretary general.

Even the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] defectors, who fear Ozawa practically issuing the orders for the formation of the new party, are now inclined to think that, faced with the difficult problems of creating a new party, they will inevitably have to rely on his experience and ability. Ozawa has been at the center of successive LDP regimes, as well as the Hosokawa and Hata administrations.

They will also be making the calculation that it is not to their advantage to go against Ozawa, because he is expected to control electoral and personnel matters in the new-new party. There has, as a result, been a rapid increase in support for Ozawa recently.

According to a Jiyu Kaikau Rengo Diet member, the key to Ozawa becoming secretary general depends on "whether or not he can keep quiet and not create problems."

A member of the liaison committee for the new party said: "Recently, Mr. Ozawa seems to have taken the attitude of assuming he is the only person qualified to be the new-new party's secretary general." And some people are beginning to accuse him again of a "revival" of his "arbitrariness."

Opposition Camp Sets Up Panel for New Party

OW2809104294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—Japan's 10 opposition parties and groups set up an interparty panel Wednesday [28 September] and selected [former] Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa as executive committee chairman in preparing for their planned merger to form a new party.

A total of 225 opposition Diet members—186 from the House of Representatives and 39 from the House of Councillors—joined the panel, which aims at establishing a new party in November to rival the current three-party ruling coalition, opposition officials said.

At a Tokyo hotel, the noncommunist opposition forces held an inaugurating ceremony, followed in the Diet building by the first meeting of the executive committee, their top decision-making body.

The committee discussed the panel's basic policies and picked personnel for six task forces—administration, finance, policy, organization, electoral issues and public relations, the officials said.

On Wednesday morning, before setting up the panel, the same opposition forces, which exclude the Japanese Communist Party, merged their House of Representatives parliamentary groups into a single block called "Kaikaku (Reform)."

The new parliamentary block, made up of 187 lower house members, is the second largest after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) which has 200 members in the powerful 511-member lower house.

The 187 members include those from Shinseito, Komeito, the Japan New Party, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and the Liberal Party.

Former Health and Welfare Minister Tatsuo Ozawa of Shinseito, a main opposition party, was named the first head of the new parliamentary opposition block.

Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa was nominated as chairman of the bloc's Diet steering committee, while DSP Secretary General Kansei Nakano assumed the chairmanship of its policy committee.

The three ruling coalition parties—the LDP, the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger]—command 294 seats in the lower house.

The opposition camp has sought to merge its forces into a new party since the former ruling c/alition led by former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, head of Shinseito, surrendered power in late June to the current coalition government of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, SDPJ chairman.

Four JNP Members Form 'New Democratic Club'

OW2809063994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—Four House of Representatives members of the opposition Japan New Party (JNP) formed their own parliamentary group Wednesday [28 September] without participating in a new joint parliamentary bloc formed by noncommunist opposition forces.

The four legislators—Banri Kaieda, Koki Ishii, Toshiaki Endo and Seishu Makino—named the Diet group the New Democratic Club.

The lawmakers have not left the JNP, which is led by former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Kaieda said they plan to form a new political party within the year.

The lawmakers said they want to gather more members to establish a "third force" political party separate from the current ruling coalition and the planned new opposition party.

Independent lower house lawmaker Yanosuke Narasaki said he has decided not to participate in the New Democratic Club.

Twenty-nine other JNP legislators joined the 187-member "Kaikaku (Reform)" formed earlier in the day.

The noncommunist opposition camp plans to merge to a new single party in November to rival the coalition government of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

Voters' Plea Against Vote Disparity Rejected

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[Text] Osaka, Sept. 28 KYODO—The Osaka High Court on Wednesday [28 September] rejected a plea by voters to annul the July 1993 general election in which the weight of a vote in a sparsely populated constituency was nearly three times greater than a vote in a densely inhabited one.

Presiding Judge Hiromichi Fujiwara said in his ruling the vote disparity of 2.82 to 1 "cannot be called unconstitutional, since it cannot be said that the disparity has reached a level that is inconsistent with common sense."

The 24 plaintiffs, including former university lecturer Akito Kawazoe, 67, of Toyonaka, Osaka Prefecture, said they will appeal against the ruling to the Supreme Court.

The Tokyo High Court in June also ruled against a group of voters who said the 1993 general election was unconstitutional because of the large vote disparity.

The Supreme Court in 1985 sanctioned a maximum disparity in the value of votes of 2.92 to 1, and ruled in 1993 that even a gap of 2.99 is constitutional.

The successive rulings in support of large vote disparities may also influence the work of a government panel, which has been commissioned with redrawing the boundaries of current multiseat constituencies for the 511-seat House of Representatives to create 300 single-seat constituencies. The panel was expected to pare down the disparity in votes to less than 2 to 1.

The verdict in another vote disparity suit currently pending at the Hiroshima High Court is expected to be given Friday.

Ozawa's Plans for Next Elections Outlined

942A0633A Tokyo SENTAKU in Japanese Aug 94 pp 52-54

[Unattributed article: "What Does Ozawa Have in Mind?; the Political World Will Take a Short Rest Until the Fall"]

[Text] The political world is taking a short rest this summer.

That is because the new Murayama coalition government, which was born after an unexpected development, has unexpectedly begun showing stability, leaving no foothold for attacks for the time being.

The storm of political restructuring, which began in full scale in the summer 1993, has raged for about one year in the midst of a fierce tug of war between reformist and conservative camps. As what was called "Ozawa's restructuring," it was Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] that set off the storm constantly during this period.

However, since around this spring, Ozawa's style has begun to show disarray. Koken Nosaka (current construction minister), who was then chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] Diet Administration Committee and who was one of the leading players in realizing Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, reportedly felt: "Ozawa is getting impatient. He seems insecure."

He lacked the meticulousness and circumspection that Ozawa once had in observing things. The first sign of this was the implementation of the national welfare tax plan in February [1994]. Around that time, foreseeing the collapse of the former coalition government, Nosaka and others began working out the "LDP-SDPJ coalition" scenario.

Groups of professionals from conservative factions who seemed to have retired from the forefront were mobilized. Among them were former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, former LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama, former LDP Executive Council Chairman Koko Sato, and Murayama, whose close relationship with Kajiyama was known as the "Yama-Yama alliance," and his confidant Nosaka.

They were tough guys called the "Diet Affairs zoku" of both the LDP and the SDPJ who had the Diet steering and the political situation under their thumbs in the latter part of the 1955 system [two-big party system realized in 1955 with the formation of the LDP and the unity of the Japan Socialist Party now called Social Democratic Party of Japan]. They are intimate friends, and their catchword this time was "anti-Ozawa."

Amid Grand Chorus of "Exclusion"

About that time, a great elder who had the experience of serving as prime minister and had already retired from the political world reportedly stressed the need for changes in the situation, saying: "We can no longer be twisted around by the fingers of Ozawa and Ikeda (Taisaku Ikeda: Soka Gakkai [a major Buddhist sect] honorary chairman). Japan will become a warped country." The Ozawa and Ikeda tieup had been common knowledge in Nagata-cho [political quarters in Tokyo] for some time.

A sense of crisis grew and some expressed the view that "when votes for Soka Gakkai and votes for Rengo are combined, the LDP candidates will suffer a sweeping defeat."

Even before discussing rights and wrongs of the political line pursued by Ozawa, an increasing number of people feared that, if he is left unchecked, people might witness the era of "Ozawa's domination" amounting to a reemergence of "Tanaka's domination" in the past. About the time when former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was arrested over the Lockheed scandal (in July 1976), central figures in Nagata-cho called for excluding Tanaka, saying, "If we allow that ruffian to continue to do as he pleases, Japan's politics will be ruined." Tanaka struggled helplessly to regain power for about 10 years, totally exhausting himself.

It is hard to tell whether or not Ozawa would follow a similar fate. Ideals pursued by Tanaka's "Reconstruction of the Japanese Archipelago Theory" and Ozawa's "Blueprint for Building a New Japan" are not necessarily identical. Ozawa's is larger in scale. However, they are similar in one point in that they tried to fundamentally rebuild the system which conservatives assiduously have formed after World War II. For defenders of the system (the so-called Establishment which supports the conservative system), however, both Tanaka and Ozawa are eyesores.

It is not necessarily clear what it is in the core of the current toward excluding Ozawa; however, the main criticism of him at the moment concentrates on the "high-handedness" of his political style, and some even characterize the new Murayama government, which was born as a result of such a political style, as an "anti-fascist regime."

Indeed, Ozawa's style during those 10 months under Hosokawa and Hata governments gave the impression of being high-handed and undemocratic because he handled things as if he were conveying the will and ideas of those who govern to those who are goverened. As a result, a voice of opposition was raised even within the former coalition ruling camp.

Aside from an argument over whether his style should be categorized as fascist or not, however, it no doubt gave the anti-Ozawa force a chance to make such an attack. Ozawa defines today's situation as "comparable to the collapse of the Tokugawa shogunate and the feudal clan system" and calls for a far-reaching goal—reuilding of a new Japan. To accomplish the goal, he must hasten his pace. The Ozawa side is convinced that it is unavoidable that his method be little rough.

Political style is of secondary importance for Ozawa. However, the conservative factions that are resisting Ozawa's style of conducting reform have began Ozawa bashing, using the criticism of his style as leverage. The LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake [Harbinger] tieup would not have been realized if they had not used the "anti-Ozawa" common factor as a momentum.

Paradoxically speaking, Ozawa's existence gave rise to the new Murayama government. In the final act of the Murayama selection drama (on 29 June), there was even a rumor that "the Ozawa side also choose Murayama as the head." The LDP and Sakigake, which already agreed with the SDPJ to back up Murayama, balked momentarily.

President Yohei Kono made contact with Representative Masayoshi Takemura to discuss the matter:

[Kono] What shall we do?

[Takemura] I am 'anti-Ichi-Ichi' [Ichiro Ozawa-Yuichi Ichikawa], so I will stick to Murayama to the last.

[Kono] Then, it is just like the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, all for Murayama, is it not?

[Takemura] It may be so, but in any event I will go with the 'anti-Ichi-Ichi' line.

[Kono] However, if you vote for Murayama as the 'Ichi-Ichi' force does, you are, after all, not following the 'anti-Ichi-Ichi' line.

Fierce arguments thus continued. As their arguments show, their highest standard of judgment was the "anti-Ichi-Ichi" line, that is, the "anti-Ozawa" line rather than what kind of government they have to make.

At any rate, Ozawa was defeated and lost power in the face of an intense "anti-Ozawa" furor. The the last minute strategy to find a way out by backing Toshiki Kaifu also failed. When these developments are viewed in terms of the status of progress in "Ozawa's reorganization" drama, it could be said that the first act was Ozawa's experiments under the Hosokawa and Hata governments, and after the curtain was lowered, he took some backward steps.

Clear Gap Also in Relations With Hata

Ozawa at once tendered a resignation to leave his post as secretary general of Shinseito, taking the responsibility for yielding power. However, a leading member of Shinseito made the following comment in this connection:

"We can read Mr. Ozawa's real intention when we see where he presented his resignation. He submitted it to Deputy Secretary General Kozo Watanabe. Immediately afterward, his confidant Sadao Hirano (a member of the upper house) made a phone call to Watanabe saying, 'that is only formal.' In short, this means that Ozawa took the step for formality's sake, but that he had no desire to resign at all. It should be presented to party Representative Hata, and if Hata had received the resignation, he would have accepted it immediately. The relations between Hata and Ozawa have become fairly cool over complications surrounding the resignation en masse. Hata feels that he will no longer act as is told by Ozawa, and Ozawa is already aware of this. Ozawa will take a breather and make a comeback around the fall to begin his work for the second act. A new-new party will start its business finally."

However, Hata is not the only one who has begun to keep a distance from Ozawa. Since an earlier time, criticism of Ozawa has been conspicuous among Shinseito leaders, including Keiwa Okuda, former chairman of the lower house Committee on Rules and Administration, and Kazuo Aichi, former Defense Agency director general. Okuda, who calls for Ozawa's resignation as secretary general of Shinseito, is reportedly saying repellingly that "if he wants to take rest, he should take it indefinitely." However, Okuda does not seem to be thinking of Ozawa's secession from the party or his parting with Ozawa. In a sense, Okuda might be thinking of a way to preserve Ozawa, by making him behave to show his penitence for the time being and by softening criticism against him, and bring him back. On the other hand, Ozawa is said to have made the following remark some days ago at a gathering of Shinseito members who have been elected for the first time: "By the LDP-SDPJ coalition, the collapse of the 1955 system has been progressing as scheduled. Leave the LDP-SDPJ government as it is, and it will collapse of itself. But we must establish our new-new party expeditiously or we have no chance of winning in the election."

The first portion of this remark has now become an arguing point in the political world. The side of the new regime views that the LDP-SDPJ coalition is the proof of the ending of the 1955 system and that the coalition represents the beginning of a new order which replaces the old system. In contrast, Ozawa perceives that the LDP-SDPJ coalition merely represents a temporary return to the 1955 system and that the old system's contradiction will become even more distinct, thereby leading to its complete collapse.

Selection of Candidates for Next Election

942A0634A Tokyo SENTAKU in Japanese Aug 94 pp 50-51

[Unattributed article: "How Far Has 'Electoral Candidate Coordination' Progressed? Is 'Ozawa Side' One Step Ahead!?"]

[Text] *The second act of political reorganization has opened all at once by the crumbling of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) versus Non-LDP framework that continued for two governments, Hosokawa and Hata, and the birth of the LDP-Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ)-Sakigake coalition Murayama regime. If the first act meant that the LDP was dragged down to the position of an opposition party, the second act, although complications are anticipated, can be said to mean the birth of the nucleus of one of two big political forces with Shinseito, Komeito, Japan New Party (JNP), Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), Liberal Party, Kaikaku no Kai [Reform Party], Mirai [Future], and in addition, the Koshikai [High Ideal Party] that left the LDP in the process of the inauguration of the Murayama administration.*

As a result of this, the focus of the second act undoubtedly will be schemes of the ruling LDP-SDPJ forces and Opposition camp with some progress made in selecting candidates, or not seeing any improvement in election cooperation between the LDP and SDPJ which is likened to "sewing the fox's skin to the lion's and will not last long" (former Prime Minister Hosokawa), and it will be a tripolar structure of LDP versus SDPJ versus non-LDP because of the internal collapse of the regime.

Smug Ozawa Full of Self-Confidence

Holding the key to accelerating the creation of such a framework all at once and "solidifying" the "phenomenon of liquefaction of politics" (Hajime Funada, political affairs secretary, Shinseito) is the Reform Bill of Public Office Election Law that will redistrict the whole nation into 200 single-seat electoral districts. Although the Election Redistricting Council is dividing up the districts and has made adjustments such as elimination of isolated areas, the plan is basically to submit the recommendations accompanying the 8th Electoral System Council report to the government around 10 August [1994], and the outlook is that two weeks will be spent on the work of making it a redistricting bill and that it will be submitted and approved in the fall extraordinary session of the Diet.

For this reason, Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Shinseito, and officers of non-LDP forces such as former Prime Minister Hosokawa were highly motivated with a strong desire to form a big unified party faction or New New Party, absorbing the current unified party faction "Kaishin," in order to amass forces to fight together in the next general election, but because of no progress in the concept because of a sense of wariness about the "Ichi-Ichi line" [Ichiro Ozawa-Yuichi Ichikawa] leadership and of the emphasis on "political party framework," they have switched tactics to priority on "selection of candidates for 300 electoral districts." In other words, it is the reverse concept that by creating the existing fact of single-seat electoral district candidate selection, they will eliminate anxiety about "both Shinseito and Komeito parties monopolizing good electoral districts" (JNP young member) which exists with the young members of the JNP and the DSP, and as a result, a party embracing the candidates should be formed and become the New New Party.

Actually, in February 1994, Shinseito made four kinds of rosters, a unified roster with the four parties of Shinseito, Komeito, DSP, and JNP, and a roster each for the LDP, SDPJ, and Sakigake. Although "it did not come to the surface because of the later sudden actions of the political world" (Shinseito source), it can be inferred that Shinseito did not consider at an early date the SDPJ and Sakigake as a partner in the second act of political reorganization. When Ozawa met repeatedly with all the JNP legislators, he told a young member that "You should run in the race from the new district of your constituency," and when that young member revealed his anxiety that he would "be competing with a Shinseito Diet member," Ozawa is said to have promised him that "It is O.K. because we will have him transferred to the neighboring new district," and thus there are some who view that Ozawa has already finished posting candidates for the 300 electoral districts.

The former coalition majority party held a representatives conference on 7 July, and established a joint election committee and began selection of candidates on a full scale. They will finish candidate coordination by the fall extraordinary Diet session, and by then, they intend to form the New-New Party by then. According to an informed source, with an eye to back 100 new and former people including about 200 incumbents, they already have 250 prospetive candidates ready to field. Although the committee members like to believe that the remaining 50 people will be recruited from the LDP and SDPJ, candidates they are considering are those who voted for former Prime Minister Kaifu during the prime minister's election. (former coalition party source).

There is the sense of expectation that the political world will plunge into a new stage by implementing the redistriction bill "since there are 16 electoral districts where fellow LDP incumbents will clash with each other and 115 districts where LDP and SDPJ will clash with each other. If electoral redistriction is realized, "incumbent Diet members will be forced to run in a district according to his/her party guidelines."(Michihiko Kano, New Party Mirai representative).

For this reason, they are paying attention to what his/her party leaders are deciding in each electoral district, and focusing on how intra- and inter-party coordination are developing. For example, "if there are a veteran and a young member running in the same electoral district, the veteran will be shifted to proportional representation," and "it will be candidate coordination with priority placed onto small political parties." For Shinseito, Election Committee Chairman Keisuke Nakanishi is reminding the endorsed candidates who lost in the previous general election that "everybody starts with a clean slate." However, this does not mean that there are no problems. There is the aspect of how strong the vote-getting ability of Komeito candidates will be in single-seat electoral districts. They have been encouraging partners when seeking cooperation, but there is also a strong negative reaction to the party and it will be difficult to fight with candidates of that party as the axis.

Moreover, there are unified candidates for the single-seat electoral districts iwithin the DSP. But there are some who would like to fight independently with the various parties for the proportional districts. Refutation has come from Shinseito that "Since they could take only two or three seats in the Upper House proportional election, there is no reason that the DSP can take legislative seats by fighting independently in proportional electoral districts by block. The New New Party must make use of scale merit in the united roster in order to avoid a deadly vote in the proportional electoral districts," and coordination of the proportional roster will also be troublesome.

Funding election is also a source of headaches. The view of those close to Ozawa is that "It will take 10 billion yen with 300 electoral districts," and it seems that election fundraising for the New New Party will fall heavily on the shoulders of Shinseito.

On the other hand, that does not mean that bright prospects are opening up for the current LDP and SDPJ regime. On the side of former Prime Minister Takeshita, it seems that the concept had been worked out that creation of a New New Party by the JNP, DSP, and Liberal Party would go in advance and that the LDP would swallow it up before their union with Shinseito, but that ended in a misfire. For this reason, with the LDP in a situation where no candidate coordination work has been handled at all, the unaffiliated former Prime Minister Takeshita has lamented that "there is no one in the LDP who understands elections," but the view of Shinseito is that they are in a suspended situation because they do not know the future of LDP-SDPJ election cooperation because of the birth of the LDP-SDPJ coalition regime.

"LDP-SDPJ-Sakigake" Side Under Takeshita Leadership

Nevertheless, on the other hand, former Prime Minister Takeshita, who is well-versed in the electoral district situation, has conducted his own analysis and as a result of the analysis, he said of the situation that "With single-seat electoral districts, a majority by the LDP alone will be solid" and reportedly has shown strong self-confidence in candidate coordination as well. Rather, the matter of concern for the LDP is the problem of former Prime Minister Takeshita's reinstatement in the party. "Criticism has increased in the party toward former Prime Minister Nakasone on the issue of casting a vote for Kaifu, and now that the pressure on Takeshita has weakened, there is a chance for reinstatement" (someone close to President Kono) since "there will be an effect on gathering votes in the proportional districts if Takeshita runs as unaffiliated" (LDP Election Committee source).

Furthermore, former Prime Minister Takeshita and LDP big shots are strongly prejudiced against the single-seat electoral district, and there is a possibility that at the time of coordinating endorsements, a war between old and new generations may break out. Moreover, "coordination may end up impossible if they go so far as to embrace election cooperation with the SDPJ" (LDP Election Committee source), and the reason LDP executives consider the election period under the new system to be after the Upper House election next spring seems to be that they want to stall for time by postponing this thorny problem.

However, cases also have appeared among LDP legislators who have coldly received transfer of electoral districts, saying "Since I come from that other district, I will have no influence if you have me come here." Retribution for development of factional battles in the medium-size electoral district system has been actualized and postponing the issue inevitably will be linked to expanded unrest within the party.

From Shinseito to Koshikai are participating with a united candidate in the re-election for the Upper House's Aichi Electoral District due to the invalid win by Niima (Masatsugu) and as opposed to considering that "it will be a symbolic election auguring single-seat electoral district elections" (Shinseito), the LDP and SDPJ still have not made clear whether they will face the elections independently or stand united candidates. If both the LDP and SDPJ are intoxicated by the restoration of political power and postpone this problem, closing their eyes to this situation, the net encircling the LDP and SDPJ inevitably will be completely closed by non-LDP forces. The coordination of candidates itself has the major role in the second act of political reorganization, and by the fall extraordinary session of the Diet, there will be a climax on stage.

Supplementary Political Reform Package Endorsed

OW2709133294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—The three-party ruling coalition formally endorsed Tuesday [27 September] a set of supplementary political reform measures to be submitted to an extraordinary Diet session beginning Friday, coalition officials said.

The measures would reinforce a political reform package which passed the Diet in January that mainly aims at changing the electoral system of the Lower House.

Under the current system, the 511 lower house members are elected from multiseat constituencies, but the new system would have 300 members elected from single-seat constituencies and the remaining 200 through proportional representation.

During the extraordinary session, the Diet is expected to adopt a bill to set boundaries for the new 300 single-seat constituencies.

The coalition, comprising the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], the Liberal Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], authorized a bill stating that the new constituencies would be advertized to the public for a month, the officials said.

The parties also endorsed a bill to revise the public offices election law to counter corruption and a measure to give "juridical citizenship" to political parties. Under the latter measure, political parties, like Japanese companies, would be technically regarded as citizens, with consequent social duties and responsibilities.

The anticorruption measure will be sponsored by legislators and be submitted to the Diet on Oct. 4, along with a government- sponsored bill on the boundaries of new constituencies.

The opposition camp is preparing a similar anticorruption bill and the ruling side may propose that the two sides combine the bills into a single one for joint submission to the Diet, coalition sources said.

Coalition officials will meet Thursday to discuss when to propose a bill giving legal citizen status to parties, they said.

* Discord Between Taisaku Ikeda, Yuichi Ichikawa

942B0155A Tokyo GENDAI in Japanese Aug 94 pp 58-65

[Article by Atsushi Mizoguchi, journalist: "Sudden Change of Political Landscape Created by the United Anti-Soka Gakkai Forces'; 'Another War' To Control Political Reorganization"]

[Text] **Declaration of "Victory" Against Religious Sect**

Something is occurring in Soka Gakkai that is effecting a strategic turn around....

What truly indicated this was the antisectarian "great victory declaration" which Chairman Einosuke Akiya announced in the Central Council of Soka Gakkai on 15 June.

As is known, since its excommunication from the orthodox Nichiren sect (Nikken Abe, chief abbot; headquarters, Taisekiji temple in Fujimiya [Shizuoka Prefecture]) in November 1991, the Soka Gakkai has been criticizing its former head temple with such harsh words as "Nikken sect," "libertine," etc.

It appeared to be one step toward raising the banner of the "Ikeda religion," but that was an immediate strategy to block the pilgrimage of the sect and its "60,000 believers of Nichiren sect religious group's mountain assent (to the Taisekiji temple)" scheduled for 23 and 24 July 1994.

However, one month before the "60,000-person mountain ascent," Soka Gakkai unexpectedly declared "a great victory" which resulted in the announcement of an end to the blocking movement.

"Here we emphatically pronounce that the 'mountain ascent by 60,000 people [to the Taisekiji temple]' is disrupted and 'Nikken has been defeated.' We declare that we have crushed the 60,000-person mountain ascent [to the Taisekiji temple] and won a great victory to everyone, and it will be left to the next generation forever....

"We would like to make clear that we no longer have any relationship with Taisekiji temple, which has changed with slanderous doctrine, no matter what kind of mountain ascent is made or how many people are gathered there."

Of course the nucleus to the actions of Soka Gakkai/Komeito is "religion." Changes are now being inconspicuously made on part of that religion. Why? A member of the executive staff of a Soka Gakkai-affiliated firm points out that "the reason is a sense of crisis in Soka Gakkai/Komeito."

"The most feared is Honorary Chairman Taisaku Ikeda's summon to the court as a witness. Even former Prime Minister Hosokawa was summoned as a witness, breaking a rule agreed by all parties. In so far as Tsuruo Yamaguchi, chairman of the Lower House Budget Committee, made clear that 'there will be no precedents in the future on procedures for determination,' the fear in Soka Gakkai/Komeito is that the central figure Ikeda be summoned first from exterior similar to Hosokawa's summon—securities consultant, former private secretary of Hosokawa, and then Hosokawa himself.

"If he is summoned as a witness, it will be separation of church and state and freedom of religion that is certain to be attacked. Naturally, there is concern whether there has been excessive sect bashing from the viewpoint of freedom of religion."

In fact, Dietman Shizuka Kamei of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) questioned Prime Minister Hata about sect bashing by Soka Gakkai in the Lower House Budget Committee on 24 May.

"A serious situation is see nationwide in the antagonistic relationship with Taisekiji. For example, on 7 May 1994 in Okinawa, someone with a wooden sword attacked a chief priest and set a fire. Similarly, a fire was set in Hiroshima, and there were even threats of an explosion with dynamite. Countless threats, threats to surround temples and monks with laity employing force, and cases of inflicting violence are occurring frequently nationwide."

Consequently, it is the demand to revoke the certification of the Soka Gakkai as a religious corporation based on the Religious Corporation Law, order its dissolution and to summon Ikeda as a witness....

Isao Dan who keeps a close eye on the activities of Soka Gakkai adds, "If it continues like this up until the day of the 60,000 mountain ascent such as violence by rank and file Soka Gakkai members being brought to court in Sapporo, it is inevitable that accidents will occur on the Bullet Train or Tomei Expressway. Officers from Ikeda on down have fully instigated it, but a quick brake must be put to it right now."

The Soka Gakkai/Komeito study on the LDP side, centering on Diet member Yoshinobu Shimamura (representative of Democratic Politics Research Society), has begun to be amassed considerably.

LDP, Socialist Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ), and Sakigake Join Forces

The "April society," which joins anti-Soka Gakkai forces, held its general meeting on 23 June and began activities on a full scale. There were 55 people from the LDP as guests including President Yohei Kono and Secretary General Yoshiro Mori, four people from the SDPJ including Chairman Tomiichi Murayama, Representative Masayoshi Takemura himself from Sakigake, and others from "Minshu no Kaze [Wind of Democracy]." Seven hundred people participated from the religious sector, including Reiyukai (IIC) [Innertrip

Ideologue Research Center], Rissho Koseikai (Peace Research Center), Bussho Gonenkai, and Shinto Political Federation.

At the meeting, for example, LDP President Yohei Kono gave greetings, commenting rather strongly: "Looking at the political situation today, a party is seated in the center of power which has a very close relationship with a religious group. If it has an exclusionary, self-righteous disposition, each one of us must rise up and correct such a mistake."

Director Hiroshi Fuse of Rissho Koseikai (Peace Research Center) who leads Shinshuren (New Japan Religious Group Association) gave reserved greetings, saying, "It is a serious time for politics. We should correct with religious cooperation the ideal of religions which have erred with exclusion and self-righteousness." Although his greeting at the meeting was low-keyed, "we people of religion must stand up," at a press conference, he criticized Soka Gakkai and those connected with Soka Gakkai without mincing words.

Especially, as regards Keigo Ouchi, chairman (at the time) of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) who rejoined the Hata cabinet, Fuse severely criticized saying that "Regardless of promising not to join with Shinseito and Komeito, he betrayed us," and in addition to Ouchi, he declared as saying that "at least, as for Koseikai, we will not support Koji Kakizawa who became foreign minister and Seiichi Ota."

As an individual participation, there were faces of officers of the Japan Christian Federation and All Japan Buddhist Association could be seen from the religious sector, and an anti-Soka Gakkai battleline is being formed rapidly. Even if it incurs the ridicule of "a religious war" from the public, it is a situation where they no longer can remain indifferent to the movements of Soka Gakkai.

Candidate's Political Career Deliberately Destroyed

It is no exaggeration to say that a great encircling net surrounds Soka Gakkai/Komeito. The specific actions of the "April society" are to come, but Masaru Yamaguchi, who was formerly of Komeito in the Kagoshima municipal assembly and prefectural assembly, and others already have been invited by the "minshu seiji no kai [democratic political research study group]" chaired by Dietman Shimamura to collect Soka Gakkai information such as the Soka Gakkai manner of unifying politics and religion.

For example, Yamaguchi served for 23 years in Komeito in the municipal and prefectural assemblies since 1968, but the moment he criticized Ikeda, leaflets were distributed within Soka Gakkai in the municipal assembly election in 1992 and became the target of death by curse:

> Masaru Yamaguchi, who has changed to an apostate, of all things, has become affiliated with the LDP, sold his soul to Ashihara Houn, the evil priest of Nishi Daisenji, and sunken to be an instrument of demons through weekly magazines with criticism of Soka Gakkai and criticism of the master (Ikeda).
>
> This battle of the law is not simply a municipal assembly election. We will brandish the sword of righteousness that is resolute against Nikken who is trying to obstruct wide propagation and there will be a decisive battle exterminating the life blood of the demon.

The sect-bashing and non-election adulteration in the leaflet probably is clear. They are activating the election movement by inspiring some passion such as religious grudges and hatred. Moreover, the Soka Gakkai not only has violated the freedom of religion of a sect and an assemblyman candidate this way, but it has also shown a method of unifying politics and religion by specific action.

Masaru Yamaguchi testifies, "Leaflets were stuck in front of the Buddhist altar and a document that said pray night and day for the killing of Yamaguchi was distributed. What is the relationship between the election and religion? The orthodox Nichiren sect and the election should have no relationship, but the Soka Gakkai has thoroughly undertaken one."

Considering that this plain fact will be confronted in the Diet in the future, it probably is natural to become aware of sect-bashing. They must withdraw their troops while it still has not become a big thing.

Akihiro Ota, deputy secretary general of Komeito, comments thus on the activities of the "April society."

"We have been advocating that freedom of religion is the nucleus of basic human rights. We (the Soka Gakkai and Komeito) have been strict in the relationship between national authority and religious group because in a certain aspect we understand it best."

Moreover, Hiroshi Nishiguchi, chief of the Soka Gakkai Public Relations Office, responds, "Diet summons have a poor basis. The summons system seems to be used politically. It is oppression. The intention is not well understood."

It is a comment that seems to deny the existence of a crisis itself, but undoubtedly their frame of mind actually is that they are treading on thin ice not to make a big fuss.

Secretary General Ichikawa in Delicate Situation

Not being able to outmatch them in clever tricks, even basic strategy of Komeito is being questioned as to where it is goint to position itself on the current political map. After approval of the budget, it has learned painfully the danger of depending only on Shinseito and Ichiro Ozawa with the tense and fluid political situation where the SDPJ has become the eye of a typhoon.

"There is an awareness in the Soka Gakkai/Komeito of the danger of not being part of the political power of the time. The concurrent appointment of Yuichi Ichikawa to acting chairman in the May personnel changes actually has been shelved. They have decided to layout a new system in the November party convention, but they do not intend to make Ichikawa chairman. Ikeda has apprehensions that the Ichi-Ichi [Ichiro Ozawa and Yuichi Ichikawa] line is dangerous, and also that Yuichi Ichikawa is related to a priest in the orthodox Nichiren sect. They no longer can trust Ichikawa. Even Soka Gakkai Chairman Akiya does not trust Ichikawa, and Yano (Junya, previous Komeito chairman) is angree at Ichikawa because he did not rehire his own former private secretary to the party headquarters staff" (Komeito headquarter staff member).

Besides, there is strong criticism of Ichikawa. Rebuke is now coming out because he has cast off senior staff members such as Naohiko Okubo and Akira Kuroyanagi in the past to protect his own interest.

"The Komeito newspaper is sold as 'the coalition ruling party organ paper,' but it is actually an Ichikawa organ paper. There is not a day that it does not take up things about Ichikawa. This is also the reason that Ikeda, who likes exaggeration and self-enhancement, is angry. If Takeiri and Yano were the first and second arrows shot at Ikeda, it even strengthens the warning that Ichikawa will be the third arrow" (Komeito source).

Ozawa is the only hope for Ichikawa. If Ozawa sinks, Ichikawa will sink. After all, Ichikawa is not more than "an errand boy" to Ikeda. On the other hand, Ikeda has insurance against the LDP.

"Besides Vice Chairman Tsuneo Gondo as a pipeline to the LDP, Ikeda is planning a counteraction by reappointing Yano. Only Yano can talk with the old forces such as Nakasone, Takeshita, Michio Watanabe, and Yamagishi of Rengo [National Confederation of Trade Unions]. Yano has become a rogue in the Soka Gakkai Kansai organization and in fact, the intention to open a Yano business office is only money, but the situation is that he must use Yano" (previously cited staff member).

Diplomacy in every direction is indispensable for Ikeda to avoid a witness summons. Once he is summoned as a witness, Ikeda's pretenses and lies will all be detected by the whole public. Not only the unification of church and state, but all kinds of social injustice such as allegations of tax evasion and wire tapping incidents will be doomed. The loss of image for Ikeda, the centripetal force for members, must be avoided for defense of the organization at all cost.

Naturally, he has dibs on the SDPJ source.

"Because there is the incident of Takenori Kanzaki, who had been the minister of posts and telecommunications, having wiretapped the home phone of Speaker Miyamoto, it will be difficult for him to become the next party chairman. However, Takahiro Yokomichi and Satsuki Eda are Kanzaki's alumni of Tokyo University and legal training and research institute, and when Yokomichi run for the first time in the Hokkaido gubernatorial election, he went to his assistance. If Yokomichi returns to central politics, Kanzaki will be a vital pipeline" (previously cited staff member).

All that remains in Komeito are the regional organizations, and according to Yuichi Ichikawa's promise to dismantle the center except for the executive office and newspaper office, they hope to dismantle the party as soon as possible and find refuge in the New New Party. For that purpose, there must, by all means, be a single-seat electoral district.

An Incident That Shook Soka Gakkai

Junko Chinda, director of Reiyukai [religious group]-affiliated IIC (Innertrip Idealogue Research Center) reads the aim of Soka Gakkai/Komeito as follows: "If Komeito disappears, at least the criticism of unified church and state can be dodged. However, the chief purpose of the New New Party is not defense, but attack. In other words, Soka Gakkai member votes will be transferred to other parties on a nationwide level. Diet members who have received their support will believe that they were able to win election because of the very fact that Soka Gakkai member votes were added and, thereafter, they will not against Ikeda. Ikeda's control will extend to the reins of government. As a result, the 'obutsu myogo' [harmonious blending of government and buddhism] will be realized."

Indeed, in the era of the second Soka Gakkai Chairman Josei Toda, they considered recommending and supporting those who understood the idealogy of Soka Gakkai, even Diet members affiliated with existing political parties. If the union of government and buddhism is being broached again now, it is not outrageous in Soka Gakkai.

"Komeito and Shinseito already had picked out candidates in all the 300 electoral districts last fall. I hear that because they couldn't find talented people in all the 300 electoral districts, they have carefully devised measures by 1) soliciting the best in the LDP unsuccessful election group and prefectural assembly class, 2) soliciting people who are Soka Gakkai memembers and who look good to public such as lawyers or certified public accountants, who are imbued with the usual general revolution theory, and Foreign Ministry staffs, 3) calculating how many votes were needed to win the election or how many of their own votes there were, and 4) shifting the votes of Soka Gakkai members" (secretary of Shinseito Diet member).

They will form a New New Party and prompt a re-reorganization of the political world by the single-seat electoral district system. Ikeda's strategy is clear. This is the policy to control the government by selling the Soka

Gakkai member votes held at the highest price and expanding the area of control outside Komeito.

At present, they are right in the middle of a river-fording operation to reach it. In other words, the Soka Gakkai/Komeito are gathered at the river bank and exposed their whole troop formation in danger of being bathed in enemy crossfire.

Moreover, unstable factors are now rapidly increasing at their feet.

Key officers of Soka Gakkai make an accusation:

"The Soka Gakkai frequently has been talking about peace and human rights. Especially, since the year 1994 being the international year of the family, we are cooperating with the United Nations and UNICEF and working for an improvement of our image. However, problems are occurring at our feet at the Soka High School (Kodaira City, Tokyo) about human rights and whether we are qualified to talk about human rights."

The origin of the matter is thus: A student attending Soka High School recently withdrew from Soka Gakkai together with his family and shifted to Hokkeko orthodox Nichiren sect. This student participated in a Hokkeko Youth Division assembly that was held at Jihonji, a branch temple of orthodox Nichiren sect, in Ome on 22 May, and severely denounced Ikeda in his personal experience report. However, a Soka Gakkai spy had infiltrated this assembly. The spy immediately reported the student's speech to superiors and the next day, the story was reported to the instructor in charge of the student.

The one in charge conveyed to the student and the student's mother that "a student who criticizes Ikeda will be dismissed from the school." The religious war between sects was wholly brought over to the scene of education.

Since the mother was repeatedly requested to have an interview by the instructor, she went to the school accompanied by a lawyer on 30 May. However, although he had summoned her himself, when the instructor saw a lawyer was present, suddenly he became aware that it would be a problem and disappeared and had them wait for over one hour and a half. "The Soka High School tried to hush up the complaint by the mother and lawyer, but on 4 June, the instructor ordered his student to attend a study session on the works of Taisuke Ikeda, violating the student's human rights. This problem was brought over to the Education Committee of the prefecture. It appears to become a big fire from a little blaze" (previously cited key officer).

Soka Gakkai Hurt By Indifference of Members

Nevertheless, Soka Gakkai recently fabricated a Peace Culture Council within its organization, appointed Soka Gakkai women division heads in each prefecture and concurrently appointed them prefectural assembly chiefs of it. However, with the occurrence of this affair, not only its deception be exposed, but it could also lead Ikeda to be summoned as a witness and be question in the Diet.

Moreover, compared with the previous operation, the indifference of rank and file Soka Gakkai members is more obvious.

"Even though Komeito is a minority party, the party overly commited itself to the government by taking six minister and vice minister's posts in the Cabinet. For Ikeda, his political group has edged up one step closer to controlling the country, but the reality is that nothing has changed. The Soka Gakkai members have come to understand that they can do nothing" (party headquarters staff member).

1. Fighting with stubborn defense of casting vote:
   Defend the casting vote to the end and it will detemrine the direction of Japan.
2. Fight to Begin new Komeito era:
   Japanese politics will be operating under the policy decisions of Komeito. It will be a switch to "human centered" politics and "faith" politics that influences politics by policy judgment, not political bargaining or Nagata-cho logic...
   Please give the "casting vote" to Komeito again that has grown as the "political party with responsibility," the "political party with clear identity," and the "political party with policy"!

Komeito, which acted in the past one way or the other according to the situation, is now shackled hand and foot by participation in the regime. Soka Gakkai members have learned that it is difficult to take a zigzag course and participation in the regime is meaningless.

"Actually, the members have become disgusted. We feel that 'the person's ashes were illegally thrown away,' 'immoral conduct with 10 geisha,' or 'disgraceful priest' don't matter. Now that Soka Gakkai is independent from the sect, the sect-bashings should subside. Therefore, the old and women gather to listen to simultaneous broadcasts using satellites, but young people and men in the prime of life do not come around to hear the broadcasts. A nationwide prefecture chairman meeting is held at the beginning of the month in Soka Gakkai, and policy and decisions are passed down to all prefectures. In the past, the information was dissiminated at the local level through the rnak and file in one month, but now it takes a month and a half for notificaiton. Members are tired," said a key officer of Soka Gakkai.

Japan in Palm of Soka Gakkai's Hand !?

The internal conditions and external political situation have become entangled and are dragging the feet of Soka Gakkai/Komeito, but that is because it is a transition period. The degree of danger for Ikeda's Soka Gakkai has not decreased even an iota.

Dietman Yoshinobu Shimamura warns: "Even if Komeito is dismantled, Soka Gakkai's capital, facilities, and organization of believers will be retained untouched. For example, look at the elections of heads of city and regional assemblies. They have taken the seat of almost all the deputy speakers in the ward assemblies of Tokyo Prefecture. Moreover, they occupy Construction Committee chair or welfare-related posts. Because licenses are involved in construction, it is possible that firms will be forced to subscribe a considerably large number of SEIKYO SHIMBUN, the Soka Gakkai organization could rake in all the money.

"Such things will not be just regional but spread to the center also. If that happens, Japan will be in the palm of Soka Gakkai's hand. Soka Gakkai is intentionally sending believers not only into legislative government but also into the judicial and administrative fields. They are spreading roots. It really is dangerous if you think of the future. I have also come to receive harassing telephone calls at two or three in the morning since I began the study group."

With the poor economy, money is extremely tight. There is a shortage of political fund at every level, even for the LDP which not only suffered from financial scandals in the past, and now a party out of power. However, only the Soka Gakkai/Komeito has an abundance of money collected in the name of religion of about 200 billion yen or 400 billion yen a year. We must keep in mind that the danger that this money together with votes will be the root of the re-reorganization of the political world that can twist politics.

Ministry Plans Financial Assistance for Farmers

OW2709121394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—The Farm Ministry plans to offer financial help for farmers who want to expand their business and for people willing to embark on farming careers in a bid to treble the number of new farmers per year in the near future, ministry officials said Tuesday [27 September].

Seeking budgetary appropriations for the plan, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry will submit a bill on the farming promotion plan to the next ordinary Diet session, the officials said.

The plan is part of Japan's so-called "post-Uruguay round" steps to reform its overall policies on agriculture.

Under the Uruguay Round accord of global trade talks, signed last year, Japan agreed to open 4 percent of its rice market to cheaper foreign rice starting next fiscal year, and gradually raise the level to 8 percent over the next five years.

To cope with the expected foreign competition, however, Japan's agricultural sectors are apparently weak, the ministry officials said, citing the problem of aging populations in farm areas devoid of successors, since the young are often drawn to other jobs.

There are only about 1,700 school graduates a year who choose farming as their career, and only a total of about 4,000 new farmers a year, the officials said.

The planned financial assistance is being sought to bolster the domestic agricultural sectors and to increase the younger population in the farming industry, they added.

Under the plan, the ministry will provide 1 to 2 million yen each in subsidy funding to individuals who embark on farming careers.

Farming usually provides little if any profitable return in the initial startup stages, while farmers need large sums for initial expenses to buy land and equipment, the officials said, adding that this is a major obstacle for new farming starts.

The ministry also plans to provide scholarship funds—about 500,000 yen a year per student—for those in agricultural colleges. Recipients who become farmers will be exempted from repayment of the loans, the officials said.

Other ideas to help farmers include providing tax incentives and easing conditions for long-term loans, they said.

Guidelines on Rice Market Opening Delayed

OW2709050694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0351 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—Government work on writing guidelines on ways to cope with the opening of Japan's rice market will be delayed beyond the original Sept. 30 deadline, Agriculture Minister Taichiro Okawara said Tuesday [27 September].

Speaking at a press conference, Okawara cited differences over rice policy among the parties within the ruling coalition as a factor behind the delay.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is aiming to review the Food Control Law so that regulations governing rice production and distribution can be relaxed.

Under the current law, the government tightly regulates Japan's rice market, keeping prices artificially high.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ], apparently worried that it may lose voters in rice-growing areas, opposes any liberalization of rice production and distribution.

Asked to comment on the SDP's opposition to liberalization, okawara said the review of the law is intended to modernize rice policy, adding that the current rice policy is now facing a crisis.

SDPJ Calls For Rice Price Stabilization Fund

OW2609143094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1407 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 26 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan, SDPJ] urged the two other parties of the three- party coalition government to establish a governmental fund to forestall wild fluctuation in rice prices, party officials said Monday [26 September].

The SDP said the government should remain responsible for maintaining a balance between rice supply and demand as well as keep stability of prices.

Based on that policy, a price stabilization fund should be established by the government and concerned organizations, the SDP suggested.

The suggestions were made at a meeting of a project team formed by officials of the ruling coalition parties to discuss reforms of the nation's agricultural policies.

The reforms, including review of the food control system, are being sought in order to comply with the Uruguay Round accord of global trade talks signed last year.

Under the accord, Japan is required to open 4 percent of its rice market to foreign makers starting next fiscal year and gradually raise the level to 8 percent over the next five years.

At Monday's project team meeting, officials from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and new party Sakigake [Harbinger] also brought their own plan.

But the three parties were in dispute mainly over how far the government should control individual decisions of rice growers, the officials said. They said the team will continue their talks.

Ministry Wants Rice Pricing System To Remain

OW2709145394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1427 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 27 KYODO—The Farm Ministry plans to maintain the current system of fixing the price the government offers to farmers for rice in the nation's new agriculture policy, ministry officials said Tuesday [27 September].

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries revealed the plan to a project team formed by officials of the ruling coalition parties which is working on agricultural policy reforms, the officials said.

Under the current Food Control Law, the government directly controls part of rice distributions by purchasing the grain from growers, and also oversees the free rice market not under such control.

The Rice Price Council annually fixes the so-called producer price of rice at which the government offers to farmers for direct procurement of rice.

The law is, however, soon to be altered in compliance with the Uruguay Round accord of global trade talks, signed last year. The accord requires Japan to open its rice market for foreign rice from next fiscal year.

The ministry has said the government rice price should be linked to price movements of rice independently distributed in the free market.

This has prompted calls from agricultural sectors for the government to support the rice market when prices deteriorate in the free market, rather than letting its own price be reduced.

The ministry's new suggestion reflects such calls, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the coalition project team on farm reforms agreed that the nation's minimum rice stockpile should be increased to 1.5 million tons from the current 1 million tons.

Highest Rice Production in 10 Years Predicted

OW2809062294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—The Farm Ministry has raised the 1994 rice crop index by 2 points to 107 against 100 of an average year, indicating the highest production in 10 years, farm sources said Wednesday [28 September].

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry made the estimate on the basis of a survey conducted Sept. 15, the sources said. The previous high of 108 was recorded in 1984.

The ministry is expected to announce the new index Wednesday afternoon.

The new crop index shows a "good harvest," instead of the "rather good harvest" that was predicted a month earlier.

Total rice production this year is expected to rise to 12 million tons, with harvest per 10 ares projected to reach a record high, the sources said.

The index hit 74 last year when the rice crop was extremely poor due to the cold, rainy summer weather.

The drought this summer has stirred fears of rice crop damage, but these fears appear to be unfounded, they said.

1994 Trade Surplus To Hit Record $136 Billion

OW2809075994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Embargoed by KYODO until 2300 GMT 28 Sep]

[Text] Madrid, Sept. 28 KYODO—Japan's global trade surplus is expected to soar to a record 136 billion dollars this year from 131 billion dollars in 1993, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Wednesday [28 September].

In a newly released world economic outlook, the IMF predicted the Japanese current account surplus to abate in 1995, with the surplus dropping back to 129 billion dollars.

The current account provides the widest measure of a nation's external transactions, including both trade in merchandise goods and services, revenues and outlays in investments.

The semiannual IMF outlook, released ahead of the fall IMF/World Bank meetings, shows that the current accounts of Japan and the United States create the biggest trade imbalance among industrial countries.

In contrast to the huge Japanese surplus—by far the largest in the world, the U.S. is expected to post a 149 billion dollar current account deficit this year, up from 104 billion dollars last year.

For 1995, the U.S. current account shortfall is expected to widen further still, up to 167 billion dollars, the IMF said.

While the Japanese current account surplus has been rising steadily since 1990, the scale has dropped as a share of the nation's total economic output.

The IMF report projects Japan's current account surplus this year to account for 2.9 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP), down from 3.1 percent in 1993. In 1995, the share is expected to narrow further to 2.6 percent.

By contrast, the scale of the U.S. current account deficit as a share of its economy is expected to grow from 1.6 percent in 1993 to 2.2 percent in 1994 and to 2.4 percent in 1995, the IMF says.

Reportage on Economic Outlook, Recovery

'Moving Toward' Recovery

OW2809091994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—The Japanese economy is moving toward a recovery though there are some prevailing concerns, such as those over the yen's rise, Japan's top government and financial leaders reiterated Wednesday [28 September].

Their comments, made at the annual meeting of the Japan Securities Dealers Association, came against the backdrop of increasing pessimism in the business sector over the economy's potential for growth.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said the economy is headed toward a recovery in their separate speeches.

They cited further recovery in personal consumption as the major bright sign, and Mieno also pointed to recovering production and corporate sentiment that are helping Japan to weather the "short-term deflationary impact" from the yen's sharp rise.

Meanwhile, business leaders watered down the bright prospects that were presented by the three leaders.

Sadakane Doi, chairman of the association, said he "can't perceive the strength of the economy's footing."

Isao Yonekura, vice chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said he "is not confident about a full-fledged recovery."

But both Mieno and Takemura seemed to carry concerns over the potential for recovery as they stressed the need to keep a close watch on the yen's rise and to continue taking "appropriate and timely" actions to keep currency rates stable, reflecting economic fundamentals.

Mieno also said "adjustment pressure remains" in corporate capital investment and labor conditions, and the Japanese industry is facing the need to "restructure and advance" to cope with international competition mainly from the other fast growing Asian nations.

Takemura said, "recent currency rates are not in line with economic fundamentals."

He noted that he intends to tell his counterparts in the Group of Seven major nations that the yen's rise is not appropriate when they meet in Madrid on Saturday.

These problems "may become factors to slow economic recovery," Mieno said, repeating that he is to "continue checking the pace and sustainability of the recovery by paying attention to such negative factors."

In view of the restructuring pressure, Mieno vowed to take monetary measures "to back up and make the adjustment process as smooth as possible."

Murayama also stressed that his government will tackle "structural problems" mainly by rectifying price gaps at home and abroad, and easing regulations.

On the securities industry, Murayama acknowledged that the market is now facing "tough conditions" and Takemura vowed his ministry's continued commitment to revitalize the market and encourage individual investors.

As for the brokerage houses, the finance minister called for "thorough risk management" to avoid recurrence of dubious transactions and other scandals that "have great impact on the financial side."

Recovery Moving 'Slowly'

OW2809062694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0536 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28 KYODO—Japan's economy is heading slowly toward recovery on a broad front, with private consumption being markedly boosted by lower prices as a stronger yen has promoted price-competitive imports, the Ministry of Finance [MOF] said Wednesday [28 September].

In a summary taking in the reports of the ministry's 11 regional finance bureaus nationwide, the ministry said optimism has grown and corporate confidence has improved lately as the effects of recent pump-priming measures have begun to steadily emerge.

Many of the bureaus noted that the downward trend in sales prices, due partly to the yen's appreciation, has boosted individual consumption in volume terms, a ministry official said.

Sales of durable consumption goods, such as passenger cars and consumer electronics, especially air conditioners, have improved across the nation on the back of tax cuts and a scorching summer, the ministry said.

Housing construction has been active nationwide in view of low interest rates, the official said.

On the other hand, the official said production-related conditions and employment differ from industry to industry.

Capital spending plans remain broadly cautious despite increasing moves in some sectors and corporate demand for funds have continued to be poor, he noted.

For foreign exchange rates, the ministry pointed to the need to continue monitoring developments in the currency markets.

However, many retailers see the favorable effects of a stronger yen on their business, according to a survey conducted in August through the regional finance bureaus on 340 manufacturers and 240 wholesalers and retailers.

More than 70 percent of retailers polled said the yen's rise has brought positive impacts, which enable them to achieve favorable results by importing low-priced goods, the survey showed.

Meanwhile, most manufacturers whose exports account for more than 5 percent of their sales see adverse effects of a higher yen mainly because it is impossible to pass higher prices for exported goods on to importers, it said.

While many makers expect an adverse impact from the yen's appreciation in the longer-term, half of them predict little influence for the time being for reasons such as a higher ratio of exchange forward contracts and promotion of yen-denominated deals, it said.

Aug Sales Down on Year for Major Retailers

OW2809081394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0733 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 28. KYODO—Sales at Japan's large-scale retailers fell again in August, following a rise in July that broke a row of 25 straight months of decline, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Wednesday [28 September].

Sales dropped 1.7 percent in August from the previous year to 1,654.3 billion yen, the ministry said in a report.

Sales at 430 nationwide department stores fell 3.6 percent from the preceding year to 725.7 billion yen for the 30th consecutive month.

At the 2,244 supermarket chains across the country, sales were flat at 928.6 billion yen.

In the preceding month of July, overall large-scale retail sales totaled 2,189.6 billion yen, up 1.2 percent.

Despite the positive effects of the hot summer weather and the longer operating hours at department stores, sales were brought down by consumer preference for lower-priced goods, an official at the ministry said.

Sales of summer clothing were firm, but consumers were slow to start buying fall clothing during the reporting month, leading to a 4.0 percent drop in clothing sales.

Sales in the "others" category, which includes household goods and electric appliances, showed a 1.2 percent decline due to the fall in sales of large furniture which offset higher sales of air conditioners and refrigerators.

Food sales rose 0.1 percent as sales of drinks and fruit were strong at supermarkets.

Issues in Information Revolution Reviewed

942A0545S Tokyo GENDAI in Japanese Aug 94 pp 214-223

[Article by Heizo Takenaka, assistant professor, Keio University: "Is the 'Chief Player of the 21st Century' a Spark Point of Friction or a Boon for Innovation?"]

[Text] **Real Impact of Information Revolution**

Amid the sluggish global economy, various topics concerning information reform provide the only bright news. Actually, the growth of futuristic industries related to the information superhighway and multimedia is sustaining the recent business recovery in the United States, abetted by lower interest rates based on prediction of financial deficit cuts. In Japan also, albeit lagging behind the United States, the Telecommunications Council has announced "reforms toward an intellectual society in the 21st century" in late May this year, and a plan to invest 75-95 trillion yen to complete an optical fiber network by the year 2010.

Debates are rife in journalist circles regarding this area, and the debates can be roughly classified into two types. One is the problem awareness about who will be the winners in the new business race concerning the information revolution. This is further divided into U.S.-Japan competition, interindustry competition, and intercompany competition. The mass media carry lively articles on the comparison between the competitive policies of Japan and the United States, , as well as the trends of alliances between companies. They are debates on what is commonly called "competitiveness."

However, as MIT's [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] Klugman recently pointed out in his essay, the truly important issue in the lives of the people is the trend in productivity, and the "competitiveness" about which the media makes much ado is not a significant concept. The story of Japan's high-tech industries lagging behind the U.S. information superhighway and weakening, with the United States emerging as the victor, admittedly provides interesting reading, but it is an economically significant issue only in terms of the impact it has on productivity.

The purpose of this article is not to discuss the issue of "competitiveness" in the foregoing sense. We would like to examine several of the viewpoints that have not been reviewed in the past, such as the substantial impact the progress of the information revolution will have in U.S.-Japan relations. Of course, it is not at all clear to the technical experts how the information revolution will develop in the future. Consequently, the discussion here will be futuristic and vague. However, despite the limitations, we wish to point out the basics of policy operation in terms of deregulation, and a responsible macroeconomic policy will become increasingly important.

First, a general view of the basic attitudes in Japan and the United States about the information superhighway and their differences. Based on this, we will discuss the impact of the demand for huge investments on the macro savings/investment balance and the kinds of problems that will arise in Japan and the United States relative to technical development.

Status Quo of the United States as an "Advanced Nation"

Much has already been debated about the information-communications revolution, centering on the technical experts. The contents are diverse, but the generally conceived points in terms of an information-communications revolution can probably be summarized as follows. "It is to bring major benefits to production, consumption, and other aspects of social life by linking corporate and personal multimedia terminals by an optical fiber network, with the development of computer-related technology as the backdrop."

Regarding the impact of the information superhighway also, the subjects of attention are: changes on the side of economic demand (e.g. the scale of a new market that will arise), changes on the side of economic supply (e.g. changes in the conduct of business, centering on a rise in white-collar productivity) and changes in the social life (e.g. changes in home-shopping and care for the elderly through dissemination of multimedia in the homes).

It is of course the United States that leads the information-communications revolution. In his election campaign, President Clinton promised to build "an advanced information and communications network" covering all of the United States by the year 2015, and he began preparations for its implementation following his election.

Forming the basis for this concept is said to be the "1991 high-performance computing act" proposed and passed by Vice President Gore when he was a senator. The HPCC [high-performance computing communications] program based on the act is already being implemented, and it was originally aimed toward the construction of a communications network linking universities and research institutions. The Clinton administration's information superhighway concept may be considered to consist of the HPCC as its matrix with an emphasis on further expanding the scale toward use by the general public.

Specifically, the United States is working to connect all corporate and household multimedia terminals throughout the United States with optical fiber, and to introduce the national information infrastructure [NII]. The NII's nature is that of a vision promoting the informationalization of the U.S. industrial society toward the 21st century, encompassing U.S. information-communications policies.

The U.S. approach toward the information superhighway may be said to emphasize thorough deregulation of its communications and broadcasting industries, with the market mechanism as its foundation. Unlike Japan and Europe, the United States has always provided information and communications services represented by telephone services based in the private sector. However, regarding HPCC-related technical development, a huge government budget has been appropriated. While based on competition in the market, the government's role is given the highest priority, thus reflecting its policy ideas in recent years. Incidentally, the information-related government budget for this fiscal year is about $250 billion (25 trillion yen), greatly surpassing the information budget of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] (400 billion yen).

The U.S. multimedia-related market is predicted to reach $3.5 trillion by the year 2000, and is consequently expected to require a huge investment.

Tradition Since the Taika Reform

In contrast, the lagging response to the information-communications revolution in Japan is pointed out. However, at the end of May this year, the Telecommunications Council submitted a report suggesting a vision "toward a revolution in the intellectural society in the 21st century." According to the report, the multimedia market in the year 2000 is predicted to bring employment of 2.43 million people worth 123 trillion yen. Therefore, Japan will reportedly promote the buildup of an optical fiber network in three stages by 2010 on a scale of 75-95 trillion yen.

Also, 20 percent of its progress is predicted by the year 2000, and 60 percent by 2005, with full-scale investment beginning in the 21st century. As in the United States, a large factor of uncertainty remains as to how such a mass investment will be supported and by whom, but the fact that the basic target has been indicated merits praise.

However, Japan's policy approach toward the information-communications revolution is considered to be quite different from the U.S. case. In the first place, ever since the introduction of the long-distance relay courier [*ekiden*] system during the Taika Reform era in the 7th century, the government has held powerful control over communications. Consequently, it is pointed out that the residual regulation centering on the technical experts is delaying Japan's response. For example, a look at the subscribers to cable TV, which is highly significant in realizing the information superhighway concept, shows that, whereas 60 percent of U.S. households have cable TV, the dissemination rate in Japan is only 2.7 percent, reflecting governmental regulation.

Actually, there is a tendency in Japan for delay in grappling with the information revolution because of the Japan-style corporate management system in addition to regulation of specific business activities. Under the Japan-style system, group decisionmaking tends to be stressed, and because competition among employees is suppressed under the seniority system, the response to informationalization is delayed from the start. For example, according to a poll by NEWSWEEK magazine, 41.7 of every 100 employees in the U.S. workplace use personal computers, while only 9.9 of every 100 Japanese do so. Although improvement of productivity among white-collar workers is a common goal in Japan and the United States, the delay of response in Japan is clear. Also, as a result, the numbers of terminals connected to Internet, which links computers throughout the world, is 1.18 million in the United States, compared to only 39,000 in Japan. Moreover, there is a gap in the number of data bases for commercial use between the United States (3,900) and Japan (900).

To summarize, first of all, the United States, which is more advanced in deregulation, will lead by a wide margin for the time being in the buildup of technical development and an optical fiber network. Of course, as it is clear from the recent request to Japan by the U.S. Government for cooperation in establishing an international information highway (see NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, 4 June), U.S.-Japan cooperation will also become important. However, it is undeniable that basically Japan's deregulation is delayed, and that the corporate and individual responses to the information revolution are far behind. As a result, U.S. superiority is predicted to also advance in terms of improved productivity in the office sector.

However, the view of one technical expert is that, while Japan is certainly lagging behind the United States in terms of dynamically promoting technical development and market cultivation with deregulation, once the policy is set and standardization moves forward, there is the possibility that reform will advance with a terrific force. The problem is when, and in what form, Japan will accelerate reform.

The Savings-Investment Balance Will Change

As was mentioned before, assuming that a great demand for investment arises in both Japan and the United States relative to the information superhighway, what impact will it have on U.S.-Japan relations? From a macroeconomic viewpoint, the most important and direct impact is that it will drastically change the savings-investment balance between the two nations.

As is well known, according to the definition of the National Economic Account, the "private savings surplus" equals the "fiscal deficit" plus the "current account surplus." The first important point is that, even today, private savings in the United States continues to be the lowest. Although the Clinton administration's fiscal deficit reduction policy is expected to be implemented and to result in cutting the current deficit, no measures are being taken to boost private savings. Nor can an actual improvement in the savings rate be expected. If investment demand expands under these circumstances, the U.S. current account deficit will greatly expand again and create a serious problem for the stability of the global economy.

The second point relative to this is Japan's investment demand and the savings trend. Regarding investment demand, as was mentioned before, Japan's investment is expected to take place somewhat later then U.S. investment, and to become full-scale after entering the 21st century. Meanwhile, Japan's savings are expected to remain unchanged for the time being, but to decline sharply in the early 21st centuray after full-scale investment begins.

First of all, there is virtually no doubt that Japan will become an aging society at a pace unexperienced by the other advanced nations. According to the hypothesis on lifestyles, the aging of the population is assumed to lower the overall savings rate. Recent studies show a shocking computation result that Japan's personal savings rate will fall into a minus in the early 21st century.

However, Japan's savings rate is highest among the relatively elderly 50- to 60-year-old population, and a pattern is seen that differs from the life-cycle type of consumption in the average Western nation. Consequently, the overall savings rate could halt its decline or even rise until the so-called "baby-boomers" in their late forties reach the ages of 50- 60 years.

In effect, it is predicted that the savings-investment balance in the United States will deteriorate and the current account deficit will expand for the time being, while the current account surplus in Japan is expected to expand further due to delayed investment and rising savings (however, if the fruits of the information superhighway investment appear and productivity in the United States rises steadily, a reverse trend will arise). In the interim, due to the changes arising in the external imbalance between the two nations and changes in foreign exchange rates, an expansion of political friction is expected. Also, if Japan's highway investment is delayed and the decline in the savings rate later slides significantly, the current account surplus could drop sharply and a reverse state of confusion from the present state could arise.

Simultaneously, as a more basic problem, it is necessary for Japan to consider the possibility of funds limitation on a global scale if it conducts massive investment. Of course, from a global standpoint, some nations must save for other nations to increase investment.

Although the figures are somewhat outdated, in terms of the 1989 data, 50 percent of the world's savings is supplied by the three nations of Japan, the United States, and West Germany. Among them, Japan has the largest savings. Its share equals one-fourth (24 percent) of the world's savings. Expanded investment by Japan and the United States in response to the information revolution is indispensable, not only for the nations themselves, but also for the regeneration of the global economy. However, this also means that the gap will greatly widen between nations that receive large benefits from the information revolution due to global investment fund limitations and the nations that are left out.

Supply Shock of the Information Revolution

Regarding the basic nature of the information revolution, it provides a major shock to the supply side of the economy in the sense that it epochally changes the combination of the production elements of capital and labor. It may be said to give a supply shock, so to speak, to the economy.

The term "supply shock" is an idea that was used during the oil crisis of 1970, and was discussed as a mechanism whereby increases in the price of energy as a production element lower the supply power of the economy as a whole. Of course, the oil crisis is a "minus" supply shock.

In contrast, the information superhighway, which links corporate and home multimedia terminals with optical fibers, may be said to bring a "plus" supply shock. It not only serves to improve productivity in the corporate management sector, but if the home office business increases in the future with the information-communications revolution, office space will become unnecessary for the company, and capital input will be epochally diminished. In fact, at IBM, a portion of the office business has been switched to home office work, and it has succeeded in real estate cost savings of several million dollars annually through "office sharing" (NEWSWEEK magazine). It will also result in savings in auto fuel necessary for commuting, and broad savings in production element input can be realized in the overall economy.

Clearly, a "plus" supply shock will enhance the long-term growth rate and raise the people's living standards. However, it destabilizes the economy in the short run, and suggests the relative importance of the government's total demand management policy to prevent the increase of costs in the form of unemployment. For example, IBM's earnings will rise by halving its office space, but the building owners will probably suffer in the short term. If commuting by car declines, gasoline sales will also drop (of course, in the long term, the energy saved will be diverted to another sector and the growth rate of the overall economy will rise). The government's demand policy will be important in preventing radical short-term upheavals in the economy.

At present, there has been strong concern about employment among the advanced nations, and growth and employment have been the subjects of major debate at the employment summit (Detroit), followed by the recent Naples summit. This is related to the fact that, due to the globalization of the world economy, (the advanced nations) have been compelled to compete with the low-cost production elements (low wages) in the developing nations. Of course, this is also a kind of "plus" supply shock. However, in the future, the supply shock will further accelerate with the information-communications revolution, and not only will management of demand to stablilize the economy (financial and monetary policies) become highly important, but also international policy cooperation toward that end will become the focus of attention.

The problem is that Japan's response in coping with such policy cooperation is extremely inadequate. Despite the serious circumstances of Japan's economy, political leadership is lacking, and adequate macropolicies for expansion of domestic demand have not been adopted due to the influence of the fiscal authorities. Also, despite the attendance at the aforementioned employment summits by the principal cabinet members of the other nations, only the labor minister from Japan participated. Moreover, Japan failed to show an aggressive response concerning the recent OECD ministerial conference and, as a result, Japan's presence at the international conference on policy cooperation was hardly noticed.

Amid the information-communications revolution which is expected to continue for a long time, a responsible macropolicy operation by Japan is expected to be strongly demanded by foreign nations.

New Spark Point Between Japan and the United States

The third point of attention concerning the impact by the information-communications revolution on U.S.-Japan relations is the problem of the kind of framework that Japan and the United States will establish concerning the distribution between the innovator's profit and the user's profit that will arise in connection with technical development. Technical competition between the companies in Japan and the United States has been an important theme in bilateral economic frictions in the past. Moreover, it is feared that greater frictions than before will arise over huge new technologies resulting from the information-communications revolution.

Regarding such problems, the strengthening of intellectural property rights will naturally become an issue, but the problem does not stop with intellectual property rights. To begin with, as a typical case of the rise of U.S.-Japan economic frictions, there was a pattern wherein the Japanese Government protected the future-growth industries as infant industries and nurtured powerful domestic industries in the interim. The U.S. companies that led in technical development were unable to reap the profits of the innovators and, although the market became open after the Japanese companies improved their competitiveness, a situation continued wherein it was not easy to enter the Japan market. Consequently, the United States criticized the Japan market as a closed market, while Japan denied the existence of market barriers and strongly insisted that efforts by the U.S. companies were necessary, resulting in the politicization of economic frictions.

Such problems are especially conspicuous in the high-tech industries where profits based on scale is emphasized. In the high-tech industries, it is necessary to form new international rules on how to protect the profits of the innovator as the initial developer, and how to secure the profits of the user of the technology.

Judging from these points, future U.S. policy will probably use two methods to protect and develop its information-related technology. The first, as was mentioned before, is aggressive involvement in technology per se. An "action plan" has been decided as the topic of study by the federal government concerning the aforementioned NII concept. According to it, the government will serve as the "catalyst" for technical innovation and development of application areas. It will also implement pilot projects using the NII network, and grant subsidies to the states, local communities, health-care-related organizations, schools, and libraries. It will provide information about the plans and results of the NII network used by government-related institutions.

The second information-related technical policy is to manifest a stronger posture about the protection of U.S. technology through debates in the newly instituted WTO [World Trade Organization] and bilateral debates. This problem depends on how strongly the U.S. Congress opposes the government's external economic policies such as GATT and NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement]. A strong posture vis-a-vis Japan has been a consistent policy adopted by the U.S. Government as a means to appease the Congress.

Inherently, technical development and its uses have been a prominent area of cooperation for common benefits between Japan and the United States, and in that respect many policymakers are not necessarily in favor of a strong policy. However, as President Clinton's personal inclination, large gains for the U.S. companies in these areas where they are potentially competitive have been given extremely high priority.

Chairman Tyson of the president's economic advisory council has contended, concerning an industry like the high-tech industry with high economics, that it is not appropriate to entrust it solely to the market mechanism, and that some new form of management is necessary. Furthermore, Tyson reasons that, while the new arrangement should inherently be decided in a forum for multilateral discussion like GATT, realistically not much can be expected of such an institution, and it is therefore necessary for the United States to take strategic action. Regarding technical development and the profits of the innovators relative to the information/communications revolution, pressures by the U.S. toward Japan are unfortunately expected to grow increasingly stronger.

Increasing Importance of Deregulation

Thus, both from the macroeconomic and technical standpoints, the formation of a new international framework pertaining to the information highway is sought, and cooperation toward that end is considered necessary. Unless Japan indicates an active response to the formation of such a framework, international criticism of Japan—especially economic frictions between Japan and the United States—will rise. As far as its delay in domestic deregulation and its posture in addressing the WTO is concerned, there is unfortunately a fear of intensifying economic frictions.

On the other hand, the information-communications revolution has a strong possibility of expediting the transformation of the Japanese-style social system itself, and of easing the international frictions of the past. For example, in Japan, regardless of the state or the company, face-to-face contacts and prior spadework have played an important role in organizational decisionmaking. Therefore, there have been criticisms from abroad in the past that decisionmaking was slow and that the identities of the decisionmakers as well as the decision process have been nebulous. Also, given the network of human relationships within the society, drastic changes that result in injury to a specific group are difficult to implement. However, reform of business modes with the information-communications revolution (for example, home office work with personal computers and direct linkage between management and the workplace) will probably drastically alter the decisionmaking process in conjunction with the demand to reduce costs in the management sector due to international competition. These aspects will clearly help to improve the international friction faced by Japan.

The information-communications revolution has the enormous potential of rapidly enhancing society's productivity and greatly enriching the people's livelihood. The problem is that, if it is premised on Japan's present social reform and policy response, it is strongly possible that external frictions will mount in the process. For the time being, despite Japan's high rate of savings, the investment demand toward the information superhighway could be extremely slow, and the investment demand could become full-scale just when savings conversely decline. Also, it must be fully recognized that, amid the occurrence of the supply shock, total demand management will become relatively important.

Deregulation in the individual business areas and a responsible operation of macropolicies—or the basic principle concerning the government's policy operation—increases in importance amid the information-communications revolution.

North Korea

U.S. Criticized for 'Gunboat Diplomacy'

SK2809044694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 28 Sep 94

["U.S. 'Gunboat Diplomacy' Does More Harm Than Good"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—The hardline conservative forces of the United States, timing to coincide with the DPRK-U.S. talks in Geneva, are openly letting out anti-DPRK blasts and intensifying military threat and pressure getting on its nerves, bringing large aircraft carrier flotillas including the Kitty Hawk to the East Sea of Korea.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

This is, in a nutshell, a manifestation of their mean scheme to gain the upperhand of the DPRK by resorting to military threat and pressure through "gunboat diplomacy" outside the conference room and thus wrest a concession favorable to the United States in the conference room and obstruct the DPRK-U.S. talks.

It is a very foolish and unrealistic plan for the hardline conservative forces of the United States to attempt to wrest a concession from the DPRK and get unilateral profit by backing dialogue diplomacy with "gunboat diplomacy".

It is our will and immutable principle to answer dialogue with dialogue, strength with strength.

The holding of the DPRK-U.S. talks and its progress prove the uselessness and infeasibility of their strong-arm policy and "gunboat diplomacy" against the DPRK, and eloquently tell that only dialogue is the most practical solution to the problem.

It is a big mistake, if the United States thinks that it can impose its demands upon the DPRK, considering that it is like a small island country of the Caribbean Sea.

We are not willing to have talks, even reconciling ourselves to the military threat of the partner.

If the military threat continues, the DPRK will have to reconsider its good-intentioned measure of temporary suspension of its nuclear activities, which has been taken for the talks.

The United States must make clear its position, negotiation or military option, clearly understanding the gravity of the ensuing developments.

Perry's 'Military' Comment Condemned in ROK

SK2809103694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—The Committee for the Promotion of the People's Assembly for Democracy in the Era of Reunification on September 26 denounced the open threat of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry "to use military forces" at a time when the second session of the third round of talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States is going on, according to a radio report from Seoul.

It branded his utterances as an outburst threatening peace on the Korean peninsula.

It said a peaceful solution is the only option in resolving the nuclear issue.

In a commentary a spokesman of the committee urged the South Korean puppet government to renounce its hostile policy toward the North.

Mozambican President Favors DPRK-U.S. Talks

SK2709103494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano met a Korean agricultural technical cooperation group on September 2 and expressed the hope that Korea would be reunified in accordance with the confederation formula put forward by President Kim Il-song.

Fully supporting the negotiations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, he stressed that "the nuclear issue" of Korea should be resolved through the DPRK-U.S. talks. "This is what the world hopes for," he said.

Noting that good crops had been brought to the Maleice agricultural cooperative of Mozambique by Korean technicians sent by President Kim Il-song, he said crops ruled good on the farm every year thanks to their sincere efforts.

"We hope that the Korean people will register greater achievements in the efforts for national reunification and in socialist construction under the guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il, an outstanding and experienced leader," he said.

Peace, Reunification Committee Formed in South

SK2809104894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—Two dissident organizations including the Alliance for the People's Politics and more than 20 student organizations of South Korea formed the Preparatory Committee of the People's Rally for Progress, Peace and Reunification and released a statement, a South Korean newspaper reported.

The statement said the committee will oppose the anti-reunification moves of "the civilian" regime and "launch the reunification movement with the people as the driving force."

'Kim Yong-sam Group' Decried for Students' Arrest

SK2809045894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 28 Sep 94

["Continued Anti-Reunification Fascist Outrage"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the fascist outrage of the Kim Yong-sam group in arresting recently the chairman of the national reunification section of the General Student Council of Chonnam National University, who had set up a censer stand in the university to mourn the death of the father of the nation, and the chairman of the General Student Council of University of Foreign Studies on the charge of correspondence with students in the North of the country.

This proves that the Kim Yong-sam group does not have the intention at all to solve the reunification problem through dialogue and negotiation but is seeking to worsen the North-South relations and challenge the North to a showdown, the analyst notes, and continues:

The desire of the Korean nation for the reunification of the country is more ardent than ever before. It is the will of the fellow countrymen to reunify the country in the 90s without fail by the great unity of the whole nation, transcending differences in ideology and system between the North and the South. Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique savagely suppressed students with the bayonet, incriminating their righteous acts. This is an unpardonable, anti-national, anti-reunification crime.

With such fascist clique left intact, it is impossible any time to achieve the unity of our nation and reunification.

'Corruption' of ROK Civil Servants Alleged

SK2709054394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 27 Sep 94

["NODONG SINMUN on Kim Yong-sam's Change of Mayors and Governors"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sam changed some mayors and provincial governors including the mayor of Inchon and the governor of North Chungchong Province a few days ago.

In this connection, the puppet home minister claimed that this reflected Kim Yong-sam's "will for political cleanup" and "will for continuous reform."

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands the change of some mayors and provincial governors as a drama staged to lull the people's complaints against and criticism of the irregularities of the "civilian" regime after the large-scale tax scandal of "civil servants" of the Inchon City Hall and the northern district office was brought to light.

The news analyst says:

For more than one year and a half since he took the "presidential" seat [Chongwadae], the traitor Kim Yong-sam has all along waxed eloquent about "liquidation of irregularities," especially "liquidation of tax scandal." This has now turned out to be false.

Suffice it to recall the tax scandal involving the Inchon City Hall and the northern district office. The "revenue officials" of the administrative offices of Inchon received a large amount of bribe from "civil servants" of the city hall and the district office for the false receipts issued to them without tax collection. With a view to legitimating their scandal, they bribed the chief of the district office and the mayor. It must not go unnoticed that the mayor of Inchon, who was dismissed for the tax scandal, is a trusted vassal of the traitor Kim Yong-sam.

It is said that the mayor had presented bundles of bank notes to traitor Kim Yong-sam, who is ready to drink even caustic soda if it is free of charge, in return for his appointment and repeatedly presented a large sum of money to him in return for his patronage of and connivance at corruption and irregularities.

Like master, like man. It is natural that with "Chongwadae" corrupt, the underlings should be corrupt. If the corruption and irregularities of "civil servants" are to be removed in South Korea, the traitor Kim Yong-sam who encourages them must be ousted, first of all.

South Koreans' Antinuclear Struggle Described

SK2809135094 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0249 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Dialogue by station reporters Chong Sung-kang and Yi In-chun: "South Korean People's Antinuclear Struggle Is Being Waged Vigorously"; identity of speakers not provided]

[Text] [First speaker] Currently, the Kim Yong-sam ring's maneuver to arm itself with nuclear weapons is being uncovered with each passing day. The struggle by

South Korean youth, students, and people to oppose and reject it is being vigorously waged. Today, we will talk about this.

[Second speaker] South Korean youth, students, and people are branding the construction of atomic reactors for nuclear development, nuclear power stations, and nuclear waste storage facilities throughout South Korea by the Kim Yong-sam puppet traitor as a criminal act which threatens the people's lives, and are resolutely struggling to check such acts. [Passage indistinct] protesting the construction of a nuclear waste storage facility, some 2,000 residents of Yangsan County, South Kyongsang Province rose up against it and occupied major streets, waging a strike. They also blocked the students from attending school, urging them to join the strike.

With the struggle reaching its climax, on 13 May some 5,000 residents of Kijang-up, Yangsan County took part in a rally to protest the construction of the nuclear waste storage facility. At this rally, they exposed the danger of the storage facilities that are to handle the spent fuel from nuclear power stations, strongly demanding the puppet authorities immediately stop such construction. Isn't that so?

[First speaker] Yes, that is so. On 14 and 15 May, some 600 residents in Changan-up waged a strike opposing the construction of a nuclear waste storage facility. The residents went to middle and high schools in Changan-up and appealed to the students not to attend school as a protest against the construction of the nuclear waste storage facility; they also appealed to the parents of the students. Thus 36 percent of the students in Changan-up took part in the struggle.

As such, on 20 May, one week after the strike began, some 3,000 residents of Yangsan County held a rally for the sixth time, saying that if the puppet authorities do not end construction of the nuclear waste storage facility, they would expand the strike, and students in Yangsan and Ulsan would continue to refuse to attend school.

The Joint Struggle Committee of Yangsan and Ulsan County, which was organized to oppose the construction of the nuclear waste storage facility, actively waged an antinuclear struggle among the residents, receiving signatures from some 34,000 residents opposed to the construction of the nuclear waste storage facility.

[Second speaker] The antinuclear struggle by the South Korean people was also vigorously carried out in Pusan, Ulchin, North Kyongsang Province. On 27 May, some 300 residents of Kidong-myon and Hupo-myon in Ulchin County held a rally opposing the construction of the nuclear waste storage facility, then demonstrated until 2200. They occupied the streets, set tires on fire, and denounced and rejected the attempt by the puppet authorities to construct the nuclear waste storage facility.

On 30 May, residents in Ulchin County held a people's rally with some 5,000 residents participating, adopting a resolution to desperately fight the puppet authorities' construction of the nuclear waste storage facility; heads of villages, towns, and counties resolved to resign from their offices.

Elementary, middle, and high school students participated in the struggle. On the morning of 30 May, almost 50 percent of students in Ulchin County did not attend school.

[First speaker] In particular, from 30 May almost all middle and high school students in Hupo-myon did not attend school. Isn't that so? Members of the Pusan Environment Movement League held a gathering in front of the Pusan branch of an electric power company in Chin-ku, Pusan to wage an antinuclear strike. They demanded the construction of a nuclear power station that has no safety measures be stopped, and that all materials regarding the atomic power plant be made public.

[Second speaker] Didn't they urge that all dangerous nuclear elements threatening the people's lives be abolished? The Antinuclear Movement League—which consists of three social organizations, such as the Antinuclear Residents' Countermeasure Committee, as well as six regions in South Korea and Seoul's Antinuclear Material Information Office—denounced the puppet clique for fundamentally rejecting the people's antinuclear public opinion and for deciding to construct the nuclear waste storage facility, disobeying the intention of local residents. They also strongly demanded that it be stopped immediately.

[First speaker] The antinuclear struggle by the South Korean people is all the more enhanced by the Kim Yong-sam ring's maneuver to develop nuclear weapons becoming all the more extreme.

[Second speaker] As you know, various types of nuclear warheads are being produced secretly in South Korea. Spare parts and equipment, as well as material related to the production of nuclear warheads, were disguised as general products by South Korea's comprador companies, including the Changwon Machine Company, Nuclear Fuel Ltd., the Nuclear Fuel Songhung Processing Plant, and the Atomic Technology Ltd. or [words indistinct]. The Kim Yong-sam puppet traitor is trying to construct atomic reactors in order to develop nuclear weapons at various places throughout South Korea, promoting nuclear development through covert methods. Such facts clearly show that it is a threat to the South Korean people and reveal that the ringleader who is increasing the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula is the Kim Yong-sam puppet traitor.

Therefore, if the Kim Yong-sam ring's maneuver to arm itself with nuclear weapons is not checked, denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, peace, and security cannot be achieved, and our nation's existence cannot be maintained. If the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique indiscriminately clings to its maneuver to arm itself with nuclear weapons in order to bring about nuclear calamity on the heads of its fellow countrymen, it will be faced with greater protests from South Korean youth, students, and people who have risen to the antinuclear struggle, and it will not be able to escape disgraceful destruction.

Paper: Make Northeast Asia Nuclear-Free Zone

SK2809102294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 28 Sep 94

["Northeast Asia Must Be Turned Into Nuclear-Free, Peace Zone"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—It is an urgent task for building a nuclear-free peaceful world today to turn northeast Asia into a nuclear-free, peace zone, declares an article of NODONG SINMUN today.

Without making this area a nuclear-free, peace zone it is impossible to stabilize the situation there and expect a world free from nuclear weapons, the author of the article says, and goes on:

Above all, only when Northeast Asia is turned into a nuclear- free, peace zone, can the most dangerous sources of nuclear threat and nuclear war menacing peace and security of this region be removed.

South Korea remains a most dangerous nuclear arsenal in Asia. Japan has turned into "an unsinkable nuclear aircraft carrier".

In no other area of the world nuclear weapons are deployed so densely and nuclear threat is so great as northeast Asia today.

And new activities for nuclear armament are getting pronounced in this region.

The Japanese reactionaries are wielding an olive branch before the peoples and hastening nuclear armament behind the curtain.

The South Korean authorities unilaterally abandoned their commitment to denuclearization with the North and are accelerating nuclear armament.

Facts show that Northeast Asia is fraught with the big danger of becoming a larger nuclear arsenal and that it is very urgent to turn the region into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

Only when all the foreign nuclear and military bases and the aggression forces are removed from this region and comprehensive and complete disarmament is realized can it be turned into a nuclear- free, peace zone free from nuclear weapons and the danger of war and a favourable phase for the guarantee of Asian peace and security be opened.

It is the consistent stand of our party and the DPRK Government to turn the region into a nuclear-free, peace zone. We proposed this in 1981 and have striven all along for its realization. We will make all our efforts in the future, too, for the conversion of Northeast Asia into a nuclear-free, peace zone and to maintain and consolidate peace and security in this region.

UN Assembly Elects DPRK 'Vice-President'

SK2709053794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was elected vice-president at the 49th United Nations General Assembly Session on September 20.

Youth Groups Publish Joint Statement on Visit

SK2809050494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 28 Sep 94

["Joint statement of LSWYK and WFDY"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—The League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK) and the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) published a joint statement in Pyongyang.

According to the joint statement, the secretary general of the WFDY visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from September 10 to 22.

Talks were held between the LSWYK and the WFDY several times, at which the former informed the latter of the present situation of Korea after the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the steadfast faith of the Korean people and youth to carry forward his intention under the guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The secretary general of the WFDY informed the LSWYK of the situation around the WFDY and the preparatory work of the 14th congress of the WFDY.

The LSWYK expressed satisfaction over the preparatory work of the congress and readiness to contribute to successfully holding the congress.

The secretary general reaffirmed full support and solidarity for the Korean people in their just struggle for the reunification of Korea and considered it necessary to extend international solidarity to the Korean people in their struggle for independence, progress and reunification.

The both sides agreed to organize an international meeting for solidarity with the Korean people in the near future.

Newspapers Observe World Maritime Day

SK2709110194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 27 Sep 94

["World Maritime Day Observed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—Papers here today observe world maritime day.

A signed article of MINJU CHOSON says:

The members of the International Maritime Organization including the DPRK have made energetic efforts to implement the action program put forward by the organization and made a noticeable progress in this course.

Our Republic will strengthen ties with the International Maritime Organization and its member states and develop cooperation with them for safe navigation and protection of the sea environment in the future, as in the past.

Article Published on Japan's 'Past Crimes'

SK2709102894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 27 Sep 94

["Japan Can Never Deny Its Past Crimes"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—The Japanese authorities can never reverse their blood-stained, crime-woven history, nor can they gloss over or erase with something like "friendship" and "exchanges" the misfortunes and sufferings experienced by the peoples of many Asian countries in the aggression and war committed by the Japanese imperialists, declares Prof. and Dr. Yi Chong-hyon in an article contributed to NODONG SINMUN today.

The article titled "Japan Can Never Deny its Past Crimes" calls attention to the fact that the Japanese prime minister in his statement on the lapse of 50 years after the war brought forward "a peace and friendly exchange programme" and declared that it was the policy of the Japanese Government not to make compensations to the "comfort women for the army". His utterances are an open challenge to and a mockery of the justice and conscience of the world, the author of the article says, and goes on:

The dangerous nature of his utterances lies in that he attempted to deceive and fool the justice and conscience of Asia and the rest of the world by concealing the Japanese Government's wild ambition for Japan's conversion into a military power and overseas expansion with the showy veil of "peace" and "international contribution" under the cloak of "post-war settlement".

Japan's clamour about "peace," "friendship" and "exchange" is a trick to foster illusions about it among the world people and attain its dominationist aim. Japan intends to realise its vaulting ambition for overseas expansion by occupying a permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

The Japanese authorities must not deny the past crimes on the basis of the militarist idea, but admit them bona fide, apologize with sincerity and thoroughly probe the truth behind the crimes and make adequate compensations so as to follow the new track of the development of the era.

This will be beneficial to Japan.

Koreans From Japan Open Aeguk Orchard in Kosong

SK2709055294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—The Aeguk Orchard of Nishitokyo Compatriots under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) has been built splendidly in Unjon area, Kosong County, Kangwon Province, in central eastern part of Korea. It occupies 40 hectares.

Planted there are many sweet persimmon, peach and pear trees sent by Koreans under Chongnyon residing in Nishitokyo.

The opening ceremony was held on Sunday.

PRC Newspaper Delegation Visits Mangyongdae

SK2809054994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] China's RENMIN RIBAO delegation led by Deputy Editor in Chief (Mu Zhonghe) visited Mangyongdae, the revolutionary cradle.

Listening to the immortal story about this historic house, where the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was born and encouraged the great ambition to liberate the fatherland in his childhood, the guests looked attentively at the relics within.

They posed for photographs commemorating their visit to the old Mangyongdae home and looked at historic revolutionary sites at Mangyongbong.

The delegation head stated: The respected and beloved President Kim Il-song was really great. I was deeply impressed by the old Mangyongdae home. The leader was born of an indeed revolutionary and patriotic family.

He continued: The PRC-DPRK friendship prepared by the great President Kim Il-song and President Mao Zedong is invincible and will last forever.

The delegation also visited various places in Pyongyang and local areas, including the Tower of Chuche Idea, the People's Grand Study Palace, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, and the West Sea Lockgate, and visited the scenic spot Mt. Kumgang.

Senior Officials Meet Omani Ministry Delegation

SK2609215994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 26 (KCNA)—Vice-president Yi Chong-ok today met and had a friendly conversation with a delegation of the Foreign Ministry of Oman headed by Vice-minister Haitham Bin Tareq Bin Taimour.

Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, too, met the delegation today.

Science, Technology Plan Signed With Bulgaria

SK2709101494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—A 1994-1996 plan for cooperation in science, education and culture was signed between the Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Bulgaria in Sofia on September 22.

Protocol Signed With Syrian Political Institute

SK2709101894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—A protocol on cooperation between Kim Il-song Higher Party School and the High Institute of Political Science of Syria was signed in Damascus on September 21.

It was signed by DPRK Ambassador to Syria Pak Ui-chun and Director of the High Institute of Political Science of Syria Majid Shadoud.

Norway-Korea Friendship Association Branch Opens

SK2709102794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—An inaugural meeting of the Fredrikstad Branch of the Norway-Korea Friendship Association was held on September 7.

Dag Norum, international secretary of the Central Committee of the Norwegian Communist Party, was nominated as chairman of the branch at the meeting.

WPK Sends Greetings to Zimbabwean Party Leader

SK2809104394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Saturday [24 September] sent a message of greetings to Robert G. Mugabe on his re-election as first secretary and president of the Central Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front.

The message said his re-election as first secretary and president of the Central Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union- Patriotic Front is a token of the deep trust and expectation of all his party members and the Zimbabwean people in him.

It expressed the conviction that the fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation forged between the two parties and the two peoples will grow stronger and develop in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, and wished him and the Zimbabwean people fresh success in his responsible work and their efforts to implement the decisions of the current congress under the guidance of the Central Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front headed by him.

Foreign Delegations Arrive in Pyongyang 27 Sep

SK2709152594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—Former leader of the Democratic Party of Thailand and Chairman of the Party Advisory Committee Phichai Ratthakun and his party, a delegation of the Foreign Ministry of Thailand led by Director-general for East Asian Affairs of the Ministry Don Pramudwinai, a delegation of the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences of China led by Vice-President Wang Junru, and a Pakistani Youth Delegation headed by Liaison Officer of the Ministry of Women Development and Youth Affairs Fakhar-ud-Din Chauhdry arrived here today.

Kim Chong-il Receives Greetings From Abroad

SK2809053094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—Messages of greetings to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted at meetings held in New Delhi, Rima and Maputo and at the Accra City Assembly on the occasion of the 46th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The messages say that the Korean people have turned the republic into a powerful and modern country with the most progressive socialist system over the past 46 years under the banner of the great chuche idea. They highly estimate the efforts made by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme leader of the Korean people, for the development of the republic and the wellbeing of the people and the feats he performed for them.

The messages express the belief that the Korean people will surely achieve the reunification of the country and the victory of socialism under the outstanding leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

They wish Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

Meanwhile, a message of greetings and letters to Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted with enthusiastic applause at the inaugural meeting of the Nigerian National Committee for the Study of Kim Chong-il's works, the inaugural meeting of the Madagascar-Korea Friendship Association and a seminar held in Nepal on the subject "Comrade Kim Chong-il is an outstanding leader of the revolution and construction."

South Koreans Reportedly Praise Kim Chong-il

SK2709051994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 27 Sep 94

["National Reunification Will Surely Be Achieved Under Guidance of General Kim Chong-il"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—South Korean people are highly praising the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the lodestar of the country's reunification and an iron-willed brilliant commander with unexcelled grit, the Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

Yi Hak-song residing in central district, Pusan, talked about the situation with his friends in political and academic circles. He told them:

"The reunification of the country is what President Kim Il-song desired in his lifetime and is also the aspiration of the whole nation. Our nation has a great man who will reunify the country. He is General Kim Chong-il, the son of Mt. Paektu, who was produced by our Tangun nation.

"Our conviction of reunification always remains unchanged because we have General Kim Chong-il, a peerless legendary hero.

"As the minds of the children run to their father, nothing can break the will of the people united with General Kim Chong-il, the leader of the nation, at the center.

"National reunification will surely be achieved under his guidance."

A smelter of the Dae Woo precision machine factory in Yangsan, South Kyongsang Province, wrote on the blackboard in an office, "North-South reunification. Long live Comrade Kim Chong-il!" and spoke highly of his immortal revolutionary feats, deeply moving the workers present in the office.

An inhabitant surnamed Yu in Inchon said:

"Any formidable enemy with a history of 100 years or 1,000 years is impotent in face of the mysterious and marvelous commanding art of General Kim Chong-il. It is because he is leading the People's Army of the North and building it up as an invincible army, perfectly grasping and skilfully applying all the tactics of General Kim Il-song, a peerless brilliant commander."

A dissident Yun said at a forum on the situation held in Seoul:

"A great reality is created by a great leader.

"Under the present complicated situation, the socialism of the North is making a long drive, surfacing as an envy of the world people. It is entirely because of the wise guidance of General Kim Chong-il, who has built up an invincible army. He is, indeed, an iron-willed brilliant commander with unexcelled grit."

Kim Chong-il Receives Thanks From Sihanouk

SK2709110694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—The dear leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Chong-il on Sunday received a letter of thanks from Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia.

Noting that His Excellency Marshal Kim Chong-il showed him greatest kindness by sending a basket of fresh flowers and an excellent gift made of Korean products, Norodom Sihanouk in the letter says:

I am deeply moved and feel happy upon receiving so warm favor which proves your fresh and wonderful friendship beyond words and is just like noblest, fraternal and historical kindness shown to me by His Excellency Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the most prominent, immortal liberator and father of chuche Korea.

Queen Norodom Moniniyet Sihanouk and I express heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency Marshal, the great leader.

My wife and I sincerely wish Your Excellency Marshal good health and a long life with deepest respects.

Kim Chong-il Thanks Soldiers, Military Schools

SK2709051294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], sent thanks to soldiers of the Won Chong-taek and Yi Tong-kuk units of the KPA, Kim Hyong-chik Military Medical University, Kim Il-song Political University and the political department of Paek Yun-muk Military Academy of the KPA for their noble communist virtues and achievements in scientific researches.

The soldiers of the two units and teachers of Kim Il-song Political University fully displayed the political and moral traits of the People's Army in building up revolutionary sites better, protecting the lives and property of people and sincerely aiding a disabled soldier.

Teachers and postgraduates of Kim Hyong-chik Military Medical University successfully developed efficacious bioactivator for raising the immunity of organism by microbe through their research for several years.

The political department of Paek Yun-muk Military Academy helped scores of war veterans do their part for the society and the collective after they were discharged from military service.

Foreign Media Praise of Kim Il-song Reported

SK2809050294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—Foreign papers carried articles lauding the greatness of the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

The Nepali paper INDEPENDENT carried an article titled "The Name of Kim Il-song Will Be Immortal With the Chuche Idea."

The paper said:

In the early period of the rigorous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle President Kim Il-song expounded a genuine anthropocentric philosophical principle that only the popular masses are the masters of their destiny and are capable of shaping their destiny.

He, who set on the road of the revolution in his early years, founded the chuche idea, the idea that the Korean revolution should be carried on by the efforts of the Korean people themselves, and steadfastly maintained this idea in the whole period of the revolutionary struggle.

The chuche idea is always successful and inspires humankind with a bright future.

The future of Korea will always shine brightly under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Under his leadership, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue vigorously advancing, holding high the banner of the chuche idea.

The chuche idea will be immortal with the names of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

The Ghanaian paper WEEKLY INSIDE wrote in an article titled "Kim Il-song, a Legendary Great Man":

President Kim Il-song, who was born into a revolutionary family, guided the struggle of the Korean people to liberate the country from the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists. In this period, he performed undying feats.

He enjoyed absolute respect and trust from the people. He was the symbol of the people's happiness.

President Kim Il-song was a man with attraction and kindness charming the people. He, the great leader, made an enormous contribution to the development of the nation.

Meanwhile, the Belgian paper SOLIDAIRE carried an article titled "Tribute to President Kim Il-song."

Foreign Delegations Visit Kim Il-song Statue

SK2809053294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Foreign Ministry of Thailand led by director-general for East Asian Affairs of the Ministry Don Pramudwinai, a Pakistani youth delegation headed by liaison officer of the Ministry of Women Development and Youth Affairs Fakhar-ud-Din Chauhdry, a delegation of the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences of China led by Vice-President Wang Junru, the director of Promotora of Argentina on visit to Korea and Austrian Ambassdor to Korea Dietrich Bukowski laid wreaths and bouquets of flowers before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill and honoured his memory with a moment's silence on September 27.

The head of the delegation of the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences of China said that respected Comrade Kim Il-song was the great leader of the Korean people. He firmly believed that the Korean people would successfully accomplish the revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader, under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Gambian, Mongolian Leaders Praise Kim Il-song

SK2809103394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—Yaya A.J.J. Jammeh [spelling of name as received], chairman of the Armed Forces Transitional Ruling Council and head of State of the Republic of Gambia, met the charge d'affaires ad interim of the Korean Embassy in Banjul on September 21 and said President Kim Il-song was a great leader not only of the Korean people but also of the world people.

Holding that the nuclear issue and all other matters must be resolved through peaceful negotiations, he stressed: "For Korean reunification, the interference of outside forces must be terminated."

He expressed the belief that the Korean people will register great achievements in the efforts for the prosperity and development of the country and carry forward the cause of President Kim Il-song under the guidance of his excellency Kim Chong-il, holding high the banner of the chuche idea.

Budragchaagiyn Dash-yondon, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, when he met the Korean ambassador to his country on September 23, said the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a great thinker, theoretician and activist who performed immortal feats for the happiness and prosperity of humankind.

"I believe that the cause started by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will be carried to accomplishment under the leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il," he said.

He expressed the hope that a greater progress will be made at the talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States for a solution to the nuclear issue and achievements be registered in the efforts of the Korean people for reunifying the country peacefully in accordance with the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

Further on Fourth Pyongyang Film Festival

SK2809102794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pynogyang, September 28 (KCNA)—The Fourth Pyongyang Film Festival of the non-aligned and other developing countries opened in the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on September 26.

The festival is held in accordance with the decisions of the second conference of the ministers of education and culture of the non-aligned and other developing countries in April 1986 and the 8th summit meeting of non-aligned countries in September 1986.

The first festival took place in September 1987.

The great leader President Kim Il-song sent a congratulatory message to the festival encouraging the strengthening and development of the non-alignment movement and the strengthening of friendship and unity among the world progressive moviemen aspiring after independence, peace and progress.

More than one hundred films vividly reflecting the struggle of the people for justice, peace and social progress left a deep impression on the participants in the first festival and Pyongyang citizens.

The second (1990) and third (1992) festivals were brilliantly adorned with hundreds of feature and documentary films.

At the festivals the Iranian feature film "A Small Bird of Happiness," the Korean feature film "The Nation and Destiny" (Parts One and Two), the Korean documentary film "The Flower of Reunification" and the Polish documentary film "City in Smoke" depicting the struggle of the people aspiring after independence gained the Torchlight Gold Prize, the supreme prize of the festival.

And the Special Prize, the Silver Prize, the Direction Prize and Camera Technique Prize were conferred upon many films and the Acting Prize to the heroes of films. More than one hundred films made in 49 countries on the five continents are shown at the Fourth Pyongyang Film Festival.

The festival is on under the deep concern and solicitude of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The films are shown at the Pyongyang International Cinema House, the People's Palace of Culture and other cinema houses in Pyongyang.

A film market is open during the festival.

Tribute Paid to Kim Il-song

SK2709055394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 27 Sep 94

["Memory of President Kim Il-song Honored at Opening Ceremony of Fourth Pyongyang Film Festival"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—Delegations and delegates from different countries, international organisations and regions, guests of honor, foreign diplomatic envoys here and embassy officials in Pyongyang and other foreign visitors present at the opening ceremony of the 4th Pyongyang film festival of non-aligned and other developing countries paid a moment's silent tribute to the memory of the great leader President Kim Il-song on September 26.

A department director of the Ministry of Information of Indonesia Narto Erawan who is heading the Indonesian delegation made an address on behalf of the participants in the festival.

In the capacity of the head of the delegation of Indonesia, the chairman nation of the non-aligned movement, he solemnly proposed to the delegates to observe a moment's silence in honor of the memory of President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who brought welfare to his nation and people and made a great contribution to the non-aligned movement and the cause of global independence.

Then, the participants honored the memory of President Kim Il-song with a moment's silence.

First Films Shown at Festival

SK2709152094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—The first films of the fourth Pyongyang film festival of the non-aligned and other developing countries were screened at the Pyongyang International Cinema House and other cinema houses in the city on September 27.

The cinema houses were crowed with working people in the city.

The Cambodian feature film "Miserable Life of Peasant Brother and Sister," the Pakistani feature film "Mirror", the Malaysian feature film "Abang 92", the German feature film "Wallers", the Ugandan documentary film "Uganda Past and Present" and the Ghanaian feature film "Baby Thief" were shown in the Pyongyang International Cinema House.

The Polish feature film "General Wodobyjewski", the Malaysian feature film "Azizah the Legend," the Thai feature film "Butterfly and Flower" and the Mongolian feature film "YV" were screened at the Kaeson, Nakwon, Taedongmun and Songyo cinema houses.

The Mongolian feature film "A Man" and the Egyptian feature film "America Abracadabra" were screened at the People's Palace of Culture.

The Egyptian feature film "America Abracadabra" which shows through a truthful portrayal of life that no one should harbour illusions about the United States, the Pakistani feature film "Mirror" which asserts that love between young man and woman can never be bought with gold and other films screened today represent on a vivid canvas the desire and demand of the working masses for independence, for justice and peace against aggression and war, their fruitful efforts to build a new life and traditional customs.

The films were acclaimed by the cinema-goers for their themes of wide range, the unique and tested acting of actors and actresses and skilful shooting techniques.

Reception Held for Participants

SK2709053994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 27 (KCNA)—The organizing committee of the fourth Pyongyang Film Festival of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries arranged a reception here Monday for the participants in the festival.

Delegations and delegates of different countries and international organizations, guests of honour and members of the Chongnyon film delegation were invited.

Present there were Chang Chol, vice-premier and minister of Culture and Art who is chairman of the organizing committee, officials concerned and moviemen in the city.

Speeches were made there.

Party, Government Leaders Visit Chonchon Office

SK2809101494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—Premier Kang Song-san and Vice-President Kim Yong-chu, Politburo members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other senior party and government officials visited the Chonchon County Commercial Management Office on Monday [26 September] on the third anniversary of the on-the-spot guidance of the respected leader President Kim Il-song to the Chonchon County Industrial Goods Shop in Chagang Province, and congratulated the officials and employees of the office who had set an example in the implementation of the party's policy, and called at families of working people.

The employees of the Chonchon County Commercial Management Office welcomed President Kim Il-song at their work site on September 26, 1991. During the three years since then, they, cherishing the high glory and happiness of that day, readjusted their raw material bases better and improved their commercial services for the county population, greatly contributing to the enhancement of their living standard.

The senior party and government officials, first of all, laid a wreath and flowers before the statue of President Kim Il-song there and honored his memory with a moment's silence.

After being briefed on the achievements and experiences made by the office over the last three years, they went round the maize and mulberry fields and other raw material bases, the animal sheds and various commodities. They said the example of the officials and employees there is a good model for all the officials and working people today.

Through the inspection the senior officials saw the unshakable faith and will of our people who have risen up to fulfill the behests of the great leader.

They also gained a better knowledge of the sagacity of the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and its great vitality and renewed their determination to work devotedly as faithful servants of the people.

Chong Chun-sil, director of the management office, and its officials said they had anxiously waited for the day when the respected leader President Kim Il-song would come again as he had promised, and, being visited only by the senior officials, they felt intense yearning for the tender-hearted great fatherly leader who bestowed deep love and glory upon them. They expressed the resolution to carry the revolutionary cause to accomplishment by remaining loyal to the dear leader as he wished.

Chong Chun-sil is a winner of the Order of Kim Il-song, twice labor heroine and deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Comrade Kim Chong-il initiated the Chong Chun-sil movement and led the officials and public service workers of the country to powerfully wage it so they could actively follow the example of her highly praised by the great leader.

Accomplishments Discussed

SK2809123394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Commemorating the third anniversary of the on-the-spot guidance by our respected and beloved leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song to the Chonchon Industrial Goods Shop, party and government cadres inspected the commercial management office in Chonchon County on 26 September. During their visit, they congratulated functionaries and employees of the management office who set a brilliant example in implementing the party's policies, and visited the homes of working people in the county.

During his lifetime, the respected and beloved leader highly praised Director Chong Chun-sil and the employees of the commercial management office in Chonchon County for their spirit of self-reliance in implementing the party's lines and policies. Bearing in their minds the happiness and honor of having had the fatherly leader in their work place on 26 September 1991, Director Chong Chun-sil and employees of the commercial management office have struggled with redoubled efforts, doing an enormous amount of work over the last three years.

With endless loyalty to the respected and beloved leader and dear comrade leader, they have fully displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle, have overfulfilled their annual assignments, and have discharged their duty for the lives of the people in the county by building their own stable base of raw materials.

Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and premier of the State Administration Council; Comrade Kim Yong-chu, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrades Kye Ung-tae and Han Song-yong, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretaries of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Yong-nim, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Hong Sok-hyong, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and responsible secretary of the Chagang Provincial Party Committee as well as chairman of the Chagang Provincial People's Committee; Comrades Kim Ki-nam, Kim Kuk-tae, Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Chung-nin, So Kwan-hui, and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Hwan, Kim Pok-sin, Kim Yun-hyok, and Kong Chin-tae, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the State Inspection Commission of the Central People's Committee; directors of the party Central Committee; chairmen and ministers of the Administration Council; responsible functionaries of central organs; and secretaries of the party looked around the Chonchon Industrial Goods Shop and raw materials bases, deeply impressed. They also visited the homes of working people in the county, conversing with them.

Looking back on the fatherly leader's immortal leadership achievements lingering on in Chonchon—a rustic county which is a far away from the capital—party and government cadres laid wreaths and flowers before the statue of Kim Il-song.

They observed a moment's silence in memory of the respected and beloved leader who devoted his entire life to the fatherland's prosperity, the people's happiness, the popular masses' independent cause, and the cause of making the entire world independent, and who to his last moment put all his energy into improving our people's standard of living.

Director Chong Chun-sil, a bearer of the Order of Kim Il-song, twice a labor heroine, and deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly, introduced the accomplishments and experiences achieved by the management office over the last three years.

Then the visitors looked around the Chonchon Industrial Goods Shop and central shop, following the steps of the respected and beloved leader during his on-the-spot guidance. Party and government cadres inspected orderly animal pens where pigs, nutrias, silver-colored foxes, rabbits, chickens, and pheasants are reared. They also looked around the raw materials bases for the Chonchon Commercial Management Office.

On the same day, party and government cadres called at the homes of labor innovators and functionaries of the Commercial Management Office as well as other working people who are accelerating socialist construction and upholding the great leader's lifetime wishes, and conversed with them.

Expressing a burning pledge to adhere to and complete the socialist cause under the party's leadership, the workers ardently hoped cadres will live up to the party's high expectation and confidence, and will serve the dear comrade leader, our destiny and future, with great care.

They said their greatest wish is to have the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il visit the raw materials bases of the Chonchon Commercial Management Office and other places in Chonchon County, which the respected and beloved leader said he would visit.

Through inspections, party and government cadres saw the high level of ideological and spiritual consciousness of our people who are making strenuous efforts by upholding the great leader's behests as well as their strong will and faith to overcome trials by firmly uniting around the dear comrade leader.

The inspectors have come to deeply realize the wise leadership and great vitality of the dear comrade leader who raised the issue of endlessly improving the people's standard of living as the supreme principle in the party's activities, and who energetically led the work to implement it. The inspectors made the firm resolve to devotedly work as the faithful servants of the people by deeply bearing in the mind the party's slogan "We Serve the People."

The inspection by party and government cadres to the Chonchon Commercial Management Office and their meeting with working people in the county displayed the invincibility and solidity of our own style of socialism which is single-heartedly united around the dear comrade leader, the supreme leader [yondoja] of the party, the state, and the armed forces. It also served as an important momentum in encouraging entire cadres, functionaries, and workers to accelerate socialist construction with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle, upholding the party's revolutionary economic strategy.

Autumn Harvesting in Provinces Reported

SK2809104094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pyongyang, September 28 (KCNA)—Autumn harvest is being accelerated in the rural areas of Korea.

Maize harvest is near completion and rice is harvested in 6 to 8 percent of the paddy fields daily on the cooperative farms.

Maize harvest has been finished in South Hwanghae Province by the efforts for reaping the rich crops in time and rice is being harvested in 15,000 to 20,000 hectares of paddy fields every day.

Sukchon, Mundok, Onchon and other counties of South Phyongan Province worked out daily harvest plans for each field and are surpassing them 30 percent.

Cooperative farms in North Hamgyong and Chagang Provinces are reaping rice and maize on a large area of fields by concentrating workforce and farm machines on harvesting.

Bumper crops have visited all the fields of cooperative farms in plain and mountain areas.

The per hectare yield is estimated to be much higher than last year on west coast where rice ears are drooping heavily and in the east coast of North Hamgyong Province and the northern highlands of Chagang Province.

The harvest in the Yonbaek Plain is expected to be up 78,000 tons on last year and that in Sukchon, Mundok and Onchon Counties, South Phyongan Province 10,000 tons up each.

South Korea

Defector: North Tested Nuclear Weapon in Russia

SK2809085394 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] Yi Chung-kuk (26), who worked as a sergeant in the nuclear-chemical defense department under the General Staff of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces in North Korea, and who defected to the ROK last March, published in Japan on 21 September a collection of essays entitled "Kim Chong-il's Nuclear Program and the Army." In this book, Yi Chung-kuk testified that North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons cannot be denied. The book was also published in English by Kodansha in Japan. In the book, he presents evidence he personally experienced, including his witnessing of a test of a triggering device for a nuclear weapon [haek pokpal kipokchangchi sirhom]. Yi, who is proficient in English, translated English documents regarding nuclear-chemical warfare as well as inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

The gist of the eyewitness accounts presented by Yi Chung-kuk pertaining to North Korea's nuclear program is as follows:

On 20 October 1993, a test of a triggering device for a nuclear weapon was conducted in the mountains in Sogam-ri, Pyongwon County, South Pyongan Province. At dawn that day, Yi rode in a car with the head of the reconnaissance department after the core members departed.

The testing ground was located deep in the mountains where civilians are unable to go. The mock nuclear test [haek moui sirhom] was to test the triggering device for a nuclear weapon, which was developed by the Nuclear Defense Department in the nuclear complex [haek tanji] in Yongbyon, and to test the plutonium 238 which was extracted, under the participation of researchers.

The test began at 0900 [0000 GMT] in the morning and continued until evening. About 30 officers, including the director of each department under the General Staff, participated. They observed the test by wearing special contamination-proof clothes in a concrete-supported underground building about 100 meters from the site of the explosion.

Yi was supplied with anticontamination clothing; he witnessed the test along the upper ridge line of a hill where no officers were present. He stuck his face out from the inside of the air-raid shelter when suddenly there was a "bang" along with the sound of flames.

An automatic nuclear explosion observation device [chadong haekpokpal kwanchukki] brought by the Nuclear Chemical Defense Bureau was installed on the spot. After the test, researchers and officers who came from Yongbyon expressed satisfaction, saying: "The test was a success." On his return trip in Choe Yong-kwan's car, the director of the reconnaissance department, Choe, who was very happy, said to Yi: "When compared with tests held on other occasions, this test was the most successful."

In July 1992, the DPRK conducted nuclear tests first in Russia and then in Ukraine. After Yongbyon's nuclear facilities were photographed by U.S. satellites, the DPRK could no longer conduct nuclear tests within North Korea. Pyongyang requested that Russia allow underground nuclear testing, but was refused. Thus, Kim

Chong-il planned to conduct three nuclear tests, but conducted only two, the first test in Russia and the second in Ukraine.

After that, Yi typed a report stating "a nuclear test using a total of 0.5 kilotonnes of nuclear material (one fortieth the atomic bomb used in Hiroshima) was successfully conducted." It was the Nuclear Defense Director's report on his overseas trip. The test evaluation report was submitted to Kim Chong-il.

The contents included the date of departure, number of personnel involved and their posts, and the objective of the test. The report stated the objective of the test was to test the performance of the automatic nuclear explosion observation device and the nuclear material developed in the Yongbyon complex. The report added that in order to improve the performance of the automatic nuclear explosion observation device, parts must be imported from Russia or Japan. The report was typed in early August, 1992.

On 12 March 1993, tensions were heightened inside North Korea's military following the DPRK's announcement of its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the declaration of a semi-war status. Yi's direct superior, Chief Hwang, encouraged them by saying: "We built some fortresses in the valleys along Kuryong River (the river that crosses Yongbyon nuclear complex) and dug tunnels there. Nuclear weapons are being produced and stored in the tunnels. Therefore, you do not have to worry too much about war." Yi feels certain nuclear weapons are hidden in underground tunnels in the valleys along the Kuryong River.

Han Briefs National Assembly on DPRK Issues

SK2809091494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0852 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—Russia did not press the light-water reactor issue when its Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov visited Pyongyang last week, although it may well have been discussed, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu told lawmakers Wednesday [28 September].

Turning to North Korean Vice President Yi Chong-ok's visit to China, he said its significance remains to be analyzed but it should be seen as normal diplomatic behavior.

Panov's visit to North Korea was basically intended to mend bilateral ties, which have been strained since Seoul-Moscow diplomatic normalization four years ago, and to discuss their positions on the Northeast Asian political situation, Han said during parliamentary inspection of his ministry.

"We have been informed of what Panov discussed with North Korea during the visit," he said. "As far as we know, Russia did not emphasize the part about the light-water reactor."

Seoul insists that it must be the principal supplier in the reactor project for North Korea, reasoning this is the only way it can finance the 4-billion-dollar deal.

Russia has made known that it wants to sell its reactor model to North Korea, saying the two sides had an agreement in 1985 that was never carried out.

Han asked the lawmakers to wait before assessing the meaning of North Korean Vice President Yi's visit to Beijing, which started Tuesday, saying only that it should be understood as part of relations normalization.

Yi is the highest-level Pyongyang official to travel to China since North Korean President Kim Il-song's sudden death in July.

On the sensitive North Korean nuclear issue, the foreign minister and lawmakers chose a brief closed-door session after the lunch break before resuming the afternoon session.

Ruling camp lawmaker Yi Man-sop criticized the foreign affairs team for its lack of policy uniformity, going as far back as last March for an example.

At that time, South Korean Ambassador to Beijing Whang Byung-tai raised a storm when he said Seoul would consult with China more than with the United States in dealing with the North Korean nuclear problem.

"His choice of words may have been overboard, but it is understandable from the standpoint of an ambassador who was emphasizing the level of closeness with the host government in consultations and cooperation," said Han.

The foreign minister denied swinging back and forth between a UNSC [United Nations Security Council] resolution and a presidential statement last June when the United Nations was set to take the first punitive action against North Korea.

"It wasn't a choice between a resolution and a presidential statement," said Han. "If it had been a resolution, then the tone would have been weak. If it was a presidential statement, then the tone was to be stronger."

Wednesday's parliamentary inspection was the first of three sessions scheduled for the Foreign Ministry. The day's session was cut short by Han's scheduled departure for the United Nations Thursday morning.

Opposition lawmaker Yi Bu-yong grilled the ministry during the morning session on what actions it took between May, when North Korea unilaterally pulled out of the Korean Military Armistice Commission, and September when China announced it was recalling its representatives to the commission.

"What China did was entirely predictable," Yi insisted. "I want to know what the Foreign Ministry did during the period between May and September—who it consulted and on what."

Other opposition lawmakers, Yi U-chung and Yim Chae-chung, wanted to know how Seoul actually obtained one of the leaflets that were reportedly dispersed in North Korea criticizing heir-apparent Kim Chong-il.

"Did we obtain a copy of the leaflet, and if we did, through what channel did we obtain it," Yi asked.

"I ask you how we learned about the leaflet in the first place," Yim said.

Ministry: North Continuing War Preparations

SK2809064494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0608 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—North Korea is continuing to make war preparations, such as improving its offensive forces, despite the country's sagging economy and Kim Il-song's death, the Defense Ministry told lawmakers Wednesday.

Briefing members of the National Assembly Defense Committee on the current North Korean military situation before their annual inspection of the ministry, a ministry spokesman said the North's army recently reinforced its deployment of long-range artillery pieces, including guns and howitzers with calibers ranging from 170 through 240 millimeters.

North Korea is also making "airboats" for infiltration, constructing underground military facilities, increasing production of war materials and conducting field and joint tactical exercises more often than before, he added.

In response, the ministry is strengthening its defense posture and improving the fighting capability of the combined ROK-U.S. forces against both local and all-out wars, he stressed.

Alternatives Viewed if North Rejects Reactor

SK2809081494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0806 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The government is studying alternatives in case North Korea refuses to accept the South Korean model of light-water reactor in place of its graphite-moderated units which produce plutonium, the main ingredient in making nuclear bombs.

The most desirable alternative calls for securing the maximum possible share for the nation's enterprises in Pyongyang's conversion to light-water reactors that are less suited to plutonium production.

This disclosure was made Wednesday [27 September] in a report submitted by the prime minister's office to the National Assembly, which is conducting a parliamentary inspection of the administration.

The report considered it "virtually impossible" for Pyongyang to introduce a light-water reactor other than the South Korean model in view of its financing, and assumed that the North is well aware of this point.

However, the government is studying means to ensure that the nation's businesses secure the maximum possible share in the event a non-South Korean model is adopted, the report said.

Noting that constructing a 2,000-megawatt reactor requires about 4 billion U.S. dollars, the report added that the cost might be slightly less when the North's share of the expenditures for construction materials and labor is taken into account.

Issue Agenda for U.S. Security Talks Viewed

SK2809055694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The 26th Republic of Korea-United States Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) will be held at the Defense Department in Washington on Oct. 6-7, the two governments announced simultaneously Wednesday.

Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae and his American counterpart William Perry will represent their countries at the forthcomimg SCM. The SCM will be preceded by the two allies' 16th Military Committee Meeting (MCM), presided over by South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Yi Yang-ho and his U.S. counterpart John M. Shalikashivili.

At the coming meetings, the two countries are expected to analyze the security situation on the Korean peninsula following Kim Il-song's death, discuss joint steps to cope with it, and re-confirm their close coordination in preventing Pyongyang from developing nuclear weapons, according to military sources. Whether to conduct the Team Spirit exercise this year and the issue of cost-sharing for the upkeep of American troops here are likely to be taken up as well.

With regard to the redemption of operational control authority in peacetime by the ROK forces, which is to take effect on Dec. 1, the two defense ministers are expected to finalize its scope and procedures.

On "the ROK-U.S. Security Cooperation formula oriented toward the 21st century," which is under joint review, the two nations are expected to report the outcome of their respective studies to the coming SCM. Ways of reinforcing security cooperation in the medium and long terms will also be addressed.

In the meantime, MCM is considering means of improving combined command in connection with the redemption of the operational control authority by the ROK forces. Ways of supplementing ROK forces' vulnerable warfare potential during the first stage of war and expanded support for American forces' strategic and tactical information capability are due to be taken up. They are also expected to look into possible North Korean provocations and threats.

The forthcoming SCM is drawing particular attention as it comes when the security environment on the Korean peninsula is undergoing changes wrought by the death of Kim Il-song, and while Washington-Pyongyang high-level talks on the North Korean nuclear issue in Geneva are experiencing rough sailing.

'Deadlocked' DPRK-U.S. Talks Discussed

SK2809072994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0720 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—Top government officials involved in unification and foreign affairs Wednesday reviewed the stalemated Washington-Pyongyang talks in Geneva on the North's nuclear program and discussed future steps.

The meeting took place at Chongwadae, the presidential office, and was attended by Vice Premier and Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Senior Presidential Secretary for Foreign and National Security Affairs Chong Chong-uk, according to reliable sources.

One scenario floated at the gathering reportedly had the two parties returning home with the nuclear negotiations still deadlocked—unless a dramatic breakthrough is achieved—and resuming the talks at a later date.

Should the Geneva talks end in rupture, they noted, the North Korean nuclear issue would revert to an atmosphere favoring sanctions. Bearing this possibility in mind, the participants were said to have agreed on the need for Foreign Minister Han to reinforce coordination and cooperation with the four powers involved in the Korean peninsula—the United States, Japan, China and Russia—and the standing members of the UN Security Council when he visits the United Nations and Japan early next month.

In the event that a comprehensive settlement is reached at the Geneva talks, they reportedly agreed to study a proposal for an inter-Korean summit and the details of providing the North with South Korean light-water reactors.

'No Progress' in 27 Sep Talks

SK2809013994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0132 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea made no progress in the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear program during the fifth day of high-level talks here Tuesday.

Chief delegates from the two sides met for three and a half hours at the American representative mission in an effort to reach an accord on the North's nuclear program, but remained worlds apart with the repetition of their previous stands.

Tuesday's meeting was led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu.

In a brief statement issued after the meeting, the American delegation said no headway had been made, adding that the chief delegates would sit down again Wednesday to continue the negotiations. Who will attend the meeting and its starting time have yet to be confirmed, it said.

North Korean Spokesman Ho Chong, the Foreign Ministry ambassador, also said that the situation remained at a standstill although sincere and comprehensive discussions were held on pending issues.

The chief delegates met Monday to narrow their differences over implementing basic principles to solve the nuclear problem as agreed on Aug. 12.

Sources close to the talks revealed that North Korea stuck to its previous position of refusing special inspections of its undeclared nuclear facilities.

On the other side of the table, the United States continued to demand that North Korea abandon construction of graphite-moderated nuclear reactors and that it shed light on its past nuclear activities through special inspections, an essential step in securing light-water reactors.

With regard to the disposition of spent fuel rods taken from the North's 5-megawatt atomic reactor at Yongbyon, the American delegates called for shipment to third countries. The North Koreans, however, insisted on storing the rods in their nation through "dry treatment."

Observers here say the two sides failed to narrow their differences because of conflicting stances designed to serve their own interests in implementing the order of technical steps.

They will resume the high-level talks Wednesday at the North Korean representative mission here. It has yet to be determined whether the meeting will be a full session or solely for the chief delegates.

Former Deputy PM on South Policy Toward North

94P30108

[Editorial Report] The 14 September Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean reported on a speech made by Han Wan-sang, former deputy prime minister [PM] and minister of the National Unification Board from February through December 1993, at a seminar hosted by the Hallim Social Science Research Institute at Hallim University. Han was reportedly "very critical" of the Seoul government's policy toward the North, stating that the government had wasted the past year with its "wandering" policy, thereby demonstrating its inability to deal with Pyongyang independently. As reported by

HANGYORE SINMUN, Han "strongly" urged the government not to lose the opportunity to bring Pyongyang close to Seoul, and in order to advance this, the government must discard the "Cold War, hardline" policy toward the North. Otherwise, Han warned, the South would become an "isolated" nation like North Korea. Han also suggested the government give the North a chance to change and improve gradually, like China and Vietnam, by giving Pyongyang economic support.

Newspaper Reporter Meets With DPRK Official

94P301018B

[Editorial Report] The 14 September Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean published an article by reporter Chong Yon-chu, who went to North Korea in early September, planning to stay approximately 30 days, but left after only five days. According to Chong, North Korea decided not to allow him to report from Pyongyang because the ROK press had accused North Korea of using HANGYORE SINMUN in its "propaganda campaign."

In his article, Chong wrote that most of his scheduled interviews and visits were cancelled, but he was able to have an "unofficial talk" with a high-level official in Pyongyang. Responding to Chong's question about Kim Chong-il's leadership status, the official said that "for the past 22 years, we have had two leaders. Whether the dear leader is officially named as our leader or not, we are serving him as we did in the past and we will continue to do so." He added that when the official mourning period for Kim Il-song ended at the end of July, the party's Central Committee met to discuss when to officially introduce Kim Chong-il as the new leader. However, when Kim Chong-il found out about the meeting, he put a stop to the plan. According to the official, Kim did not want to have any ceremony while people were still in "deep sorrow" over the death of their leader. The official reportedly believes that Kim's leadership is "unshakable" and the country will go on, with the government maintaining the agriculture-first, light industry-first, and trade-first policies.

To Chong's query about Kim Chong-il's absence from public view, the official answered that "the dear leader has never cared for being in the public light, but the reason for his absence during this period is respect for people's sorrow." He told Chong that for several days after his father's death, Kim did not eat and sleep, which elicited public concern over his well-being. Seeing their "only living leader" 's "haggard look" during the mourning period, the people expressed their concern to various offices. According to the official, although no changes are expected until 16 October, Kim wants people to return to their normal lives, urging them on 9 September to "start celebrating weddings and birthdays."

Regarding the rumor that Pyongyang was the setting of an "internal power struggle" and the prospect of Marshal O Chin-u becoming president, the official denied the former and rejected the latter as "an unthinkable idea" that the people would never accept. Chong interpreted this to mean that Kim Chong-il's leadership status is "solid."

Reports on Impressions of DPRK

94P301019

[Editorial Report] In an article in the 16 September Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean, reporter Chong Yon-chu, who recently spent five days in North Korea, noted that he found the country to be neither a "paradise" as Pyongyang has been claiming, nor a "hunger-stricken hell." Chong reported that most people in the North seem to be content, except for those living in Chagang, Yanggnag, and North Hangyong Provinces which border China. Chong stated that the hardships these three provinces are experiencing result from the inefficient transportation and supply systems, which were caused by fuel shortages, but not by food shortages. Chong blamed the Korean-Chinese population in the Yonbyon area, who share a border with the DPRK's nothern provinces, for drawing a "desolate picture" of North Korea to the world. Chong believes that the Yonbyon Koreans do not want to see improved relations between the two Koreas because they have been making money and getting rich acting as a "go-between" in North-South business dealings, and they want to continue to do so.

Team Planned for 'Sudden Reunification' Prospect

SK2809005894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0022 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will select 20 officials as "personnel to prepare unification plans" and train them beginning next year to handle sudden reunification of the Korean peninsula.

The personnel will come from state bodies related to reunification such as the National Unification Board (NUB) and the Finance, Justice and Defense Ministries.

The government move follows President Kim Yong-sam's instructions to prepare for reunification in a speech on national liberation day last Aug. 15.

For this purpose, the NUB submitted to the National Assembly plans to appropriate 450 million won (about 561,190 U.S. dollars) from next year's budget to select and train the personnel and began to fix research subjects.

An NUB official said Tuesday, "the personnel selected from each agency will be dispatched for six months to the four big powers around the peninsula—the United States, Japan, China and Russia—and eastern European countries to draft plans to prepare for unification in their respective special fields."

144 Foreign Firms Invested in DPRK 1985 to 1993

SK2809101094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0716 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—A total of 144 foreign companies including 127 from Japan invested in North Korea from 1985, when the Communist country established a law on joint ventures, to the end of last year.

Rep. Kim Chung-cho of the opposition Democratic Party disclosed Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) data during the National Assembly inspection of the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry on Wednesday [28 September] showing that 127 Japanese companies, seven U.S., four Russian, three Chinese, a Danish, an Australian and a French firm invested in North Korea during the cited period.

The majority of the companies dealt in consumer goods such as food, apparel, household articles and marine products or those related to the primary industries. Among them, the American firms were invested by Korean residents of the United States in 1992.

Five companies invested in 1985, seven in 1986, 21 in 1987, 20 in 1988, 19 in 1989, four in 1990 and 16 in 1991. After the number soared to 48 in 1992, it declined to four last year.

Rep. Kim urged domestic companies to prepare for more investment in the Stalinist state, pointing out that "the United States and Japan are studying making inroads into the northern region through a North Korean bridgehead and the U.S. company Coca Cola recently finished a marketing survey of North Korea."

Ministry Report Details USFK Capabilities

SK2809024694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) has introduced the theater missile defense (TMD) plan, which is being promoted jointly by the United States and Japan, to improve its air defense capability against North Korean aircraft and missile attack.

According to material the Defense Ministry gave to Rep. Chung Tae-chol of the opposition Democratic Party on Tuesday, the USFK has already set up a joint tactical ground station (JTAGS) network capable of greatly reducing the time needed for early warning of an enemy aerial attack.

The JTAGS, which is included in the TMD plan, is capable of sending information on enemy aerial attack reconnaissance satellites picked up to patriot air-defense missile launchers, enabling them to intercept enemy missiles within one minute, compared with the three to five minutes required until the new early warning network was installed.

The PAC-2 Patriot missile units the USFK has deployed in Korea can detect enemy aircraft at 170 kilometers and intercept them at 70 km. For enemy ballistic missiles, they are capable of detecting them at 132 km and intercepting them at 20 to 25 km. They can also follow 100 enemy flight paths and simultaneously engage nine enemy aircraft or missiles.

Value of Won Rising Against U.S. Dollar Viewed

SK2809111394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1051 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The value of the won currency against the U.S. dollar rose on Wednesday [28 September] to the highest since may last year.

At the Seoul Foreign Exchange Mart, the value of the won inched up beyond the 800-won-to-the-dollar level with the won being traded at about 799 won to the dollar throughout the session Wednesday.

The session started at 799.20 won to the dollar and closed at 798.90 won.

A market analyst said the gain of the won value was due mainly to the heavy concentration of month-end negotiation funds and the influx of 15 million dollars in foreigners' beneficiary certificates.

The basic won-dollar rate was 799.70 won to the dollars on Sept. 17, 800.90 won on Sept. 23, 802.50 won on Sept. 24 and 26, and 802.80 won on Sept. 27.

Foreign Minister's UN Trip Agenda Previewed

SK2809010294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0048 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu leaves for the United Nations Thursday to attend the 49th General Assembly and meet with other foreign ministers on bilateral relations and the North Korean nuclear problem.

Highlights of his working schedule at the United Nations include talks with his counterparts Warren Christopher of the United States and Qian Qichen of China, with key topics apparently including the latest developments in Pyongyang's nuclear program.

Han's itinerary lists separate meetings with his counterparts from over 20 countries including all five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

He is scheduled to give a UN keynote speech on Oct. 3 and will meet Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali afterwards. Han is expected to stop off in Japan on his way back for talks with Japanese leaders, including Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, on bilateral and North Korean issues.

He is due to return on Oct. 7.

Han addresses the Asia Society on Sept. 30 on the occasion of the Korean Festival and will speak at Harvard University on Oct. 4.

The foreign minister's visit coincides with ongoing U.S.-North Korea high-level talks on the nuclear problem, which are likely to halt temporarily while Han is at the United Nations. He will exchange evaluations on the talks' results, jointly assess the situation and coordinate positions on the matter with his counterparts.

South Korea is running for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 1996-97, and Han plans to muster the support of other members for the bid.

Seoul Donates Transport Equipment to UN Program

SK2809111194 Seoul YONHAP in English 1040 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to donate 510 million won worth of transport equipment to Rwanda for use by the United Nations Aid Mission [in Rwanda] (UNAMIR) there, the Foreign Ministry reported Wednesday [28 September].

The equipment to be donated include 20 jeeps, 10 mini buses and 15 20-feet containers.

This is the third time South Korea provided assistance to refugees programs in Rwanda. A relief fund of 100,000 dollars was donated last July and 100 million won worth of cholera medicines in August.

Reduction in Support for Group in Japan Planned

SK2809105694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0840 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [28 September] it will gradually reduce funding for Mindan, a group of pro-South Korean Government residents in Japan, from this year to achieve more balanced aid to overseas Koreans.

Min Hyong-ki, assistant minister for planning and management, told lawmakers during parliamentary inspections that the ministry will decrease its aid to the group by 10 percent every year from 1994.

The decision came in response to lawmakers' objections that the ministry's assistance budget for overseas Koreans was too skewed in favor of Mindan.

The funding, given mostly to compete with a pro-North Korean organization in Japan called Chochongnyon, tallied 7.14 million U.S. dollars out of a total 9.79 million dollars for all overseas Korean organizations in 1993. The amount dropped somewhat to 6.87 million dollars this year out of 8 million dollars.

South-Japan, South-PRC Ferry Lines Planned

SK2709121294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1023 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—Four international ferry lines will be created through next year, it was learned on Tuesday.

A material submitted by the Maritime and Port Administration to the National Assembly said the four planned lines include one between the east coast and Japan and three between Korea and China.

The new Korea-Japan line will link Tonghae [Sea of Japan] along the east coast to Ssuruga of Japan. It will begin service in November this year.

The three lines connecting Korea and China will be between Inchon and Dalian, between Pusan and Shanghai and between Mokpo and Lianyun.

A 5,000-ton-class ferry able to accommodate up to 460 people will be run along the Tonghae-Ssuruga line by the Tongmyong Maritime Co.

Inchon-Dalian and Pusan-Shanghai routes are scheduled to go into business either toward the end of this year or early next year.

Joint-venture agreements for the new ferry service have already been signed between relevant Korean and Chinese firms, which are now awaiting approval by Chinese Government authorities.

As for Mokpo-Lianyun line, Chinese authorities have expressed their agreement to it, making it possible to open it some time next year, according to the material.

President Gives Embezzlement Probe Instructions

SK2709114994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam instructed his administration Tuesday to thoroughly investigate officials involved in embezzling tax revenues at the Inchon city north ward office, leaving no sanctuary and meting out strict punishment to those found guilty.

The chief executive issued the instruction to Home Minister Choe Hyong-u and Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui in separate meetings at his presidential office, during which the serial kidnap-murders committed by the "Chijon" gang were also taken up.

Kim told the ministers to see to it that "the maximum possible penalties under the law are given to public officials involved in wrongdoing and vicious criminals with a view to warning others and uprooting irregular and criminal practices," presidential spokesman Chu Ton-sik said Tuesday.

Attributing a series of recent scandals and crimes to a collapsed sense of ethics and paralysis in moral values, Kim stressed the need to establish a sense of community and moral retrenchment. He then called on the ministers to do their utmost to eliminate corruption and secure public safety.

The chief executive also urged them to instill firm discipline throughout officialdom and society.

No Denies Money Allegedly Attributed to Account

SK2809101994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0833 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—Former President No Tae-u has dismissed as "totally groundless" an opposition lawmaker's allegation that the government detected 120 billion won (150 million U.S. dollars) attributable to No while inspecting the process of shifting from false- or borrowed-name accounts to real-name accounts under the real-name financial transaction system last spring.

No's spokesman denied the charge Wednesday [28 September], saying no such funds existed.

Rep. Kim Won-kil of the opposition Democratic Party claimed during a parliamentary inspection of the Finance Ministry Wednesday morning that the government investigated, in March and April, the financial assets of the owners of the nation's 30 largest business groups, with stress reportedly placed on whether or not they contributed political funds to No and his chief bodyguard Yi Hyon-u.

The probe was related to funds of 120 billion won attributable to No and Yi detected during an inspection of how false- or borrowed-name accounts were converted into real-name accounts, he added.

Ho Han-do, vice superintendent of banks, told reporters Monday that his office had found that some enterprises had been advised by unknown money lenders to use huge amounts of long-term, low-interest private loans, he claimed.

Former President Choe Refuses To Answer Queries

SK2709121394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1051 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—Former President Choe kyu- ha on Tuesday refused to answer the questionnaires posed to him by the prosecution over the move he made during the crucial period of the Dec. 12, 1979 incident.

A Seoul prosecution official said that in a letter delivered by his aides, Choe asserted that it would leave a bad precedent in the nation's constitutional history if he explained about a public incident that took place during the term of his office.

The prosecution official said that despite Choe's refusal to answer, his prosecution would not press him for answers any further.

"What we need in the investigation of those involved in the December 12 incident have already been secured through questioning in writing of former Prime Minister Sin Hyon-hwak and ex-chief Presidential Secretary Choe Kwang-su," he said.

The prosecution plans to wind up the probe soon and determine whether to criminally prosecute those involved in the incident by late October.

The December 12 incident refers to the arrest of Army Chief of Staff and Martial Law Commander Gen. Chong Sung-hwa by Maj. Gen. Chon Tu-hwan and his colleagues and some ensuing clashes in a martial law state following the assassination of President Pak Chong-hui.

Through the incident which President Kim Yong-sam has described as "coup-like incident," Chon had emerged as a de facto strong man before he himself rose to presidency the following year.

Two 'Progressive' Politicians Join Ruling Party

SK2709115194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—"I know my conversion from the opposition camp to the ruling party is being ridiculed, but I've opted for a commitment to the reforms the government is pushing, instead of criticism, to be of some help in carrying out the reforms in the direction we all want," Yi U-chae declared at a press conference held immediately after his admission to the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) was announced Tuesday.

Yi, who once led a progressive party, stressed the need for implementing the Kim Yong-sam government's reform program. "The people are somewhat disappointed at the level of reform the government is carrying on because they expected too much of the reform program," he added.

The progressive party he led was the defunct party of the masses.

Asked why he declined to join the opposition Democratic Party (DP), Yi replied, "Because the ruling party is leading and conducting the reforms. In the present Korean situation, I think those committed to realistic and practicable reforms are the front- running progressives."

On Korea's subscription to the World Trade Organization (WTO) convention, which the DP opposes, Yi said, "Whether or not we should subscribe to it can't be an issue: What matters is when we should subscribe to it for our maximum national interest."

Chong Tae-yun, who also joined the ruling party in a turnabout from his past affiliation with the opposition camp, said reform is a job that must be done not by any specific party alone but by all Koreans.

"What we must do now is to solve the problems facing Korean capitalism and elevate it to a higher level where economic efficiency, social welfare and quality of life are guaranteed," he stressed. "To this end, we must reform on a step-by-step basis within the framework of capitalism, and I don't believe radical reform beyond this framework is desirable."

Chong formerly worked in Yi's progressive party.

Yi and Chong have been accepted by the ruling party as heads of its two non-parliamentary district chapters in Seoul, paving the way for them to run in the coming parliamentary elections on the DLP ticket.

Dissidents' Admission Opposed

SK2809101394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0655 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) faces an ideological dispute over its political line as some conservative members are raising objections to dissident activists' joining the party.

The party admitted two dissidents including Yi U-chae, former leader of the now-defunct Minjung (Masses) Party, in Tuesday's [27 September] announcement of a list of 13 new local chapter chairmen.

Reps. An Mu-hyok and Kwak Chung-chol strongly objected when they called on DLP Chairman Rep. Kim Chong-pil at his office on Wednesday, taking issue with Yi's steering of the defunct party together with Kim Nak-chung, who is currently under arrest on suspicion of violating the National Security Law.

In particular Rep. An, formerly director of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), questioned Yi's source of financing for three candidates in the last parliamentary elections, Rep. Kwak disclosed.

Kwak added, however, that he had not heard any details on financial sources from An.

During their meeting with the DLP chairman, the two legislators pointed out that the new members had failed to say anything about their intention to accept party policies and platforms, demanding an explanation of their past careers and the reasons for accepting them.

"They simply said they would join President Kim Yong-sam's reform drive," the conservative lawmakers argued. "There must be some procedural problems as the party's Central Executive Council accepted them without specific debate."

For his part, the chairman reportedly asked for their understanding, saying the matter has already been determined.

Military Denies Ilsan Built on Defense Concept

SK2709121094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0828 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry on Tuesday denied an opposition lawmaker's allegation that Ilsan, a satellite city north of Seoul, was constructed under the concept of an urban fortification.

As the Ilsan area is a strategic strong point for the defense of Seoul in an emergency, the government could not help taking into consideration its military defense aspect in the initial city planning, the ministry said in a statement.

"But while construction work was progressing, most of the consideration related to building fortifications was thrown out because there was a growing opinion that such structures would be inconveniences to city dwellers," it added.

Moreover, the forward defense line has been moved to north of Ilsan city to defend the city in an emergency, while the initial plans to build fortifications have been scrapped.

On June 1, Ilsan was completely excluded from the military protection zone, with the result that the military no longer has a say in civilian construction projects in the city, the ministry explained.

Rep. Kim Ok-chun of the Democratic Party claimed Monday that the Defense Ministry agreed with the Construction Ministry and other agencies in a meeting held in August 1990 that Ilsan city would be built on the basis of six fortification plans, including those for making north-south streets narrow and east-west streets wide and building apartment buildings in east-west rows.

The Defense Ministry said in the statement that all but two of the six plans had not been carried out. The two plans, for adjusting street width and placing the apartment building row nearest to a street as close to the street as possible, were executed as they were not considered to hinder the city's urban functioning, it added.

Number of Insubordination Cases in Army Viewed

SK2809111094 Seoul YONHAP in English 1048 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—More than 300 cases of insubordination and disobedience occur in the South Korean armed forces a year in the recent past, it was disclosed on Wednesday [28 September].

Quoting a material available from the Defense Ministry, Rep. Yim Pok-chin of the Democratic Party said the alarming number of the incidents of loose discipline is the result of the moral crisis that he said has been sweeping the country since the turn of the 1980s.

Yim, a general turned politician, made the remarks while discussing Tuesday's desertion by two army lieutenants and a non- commissioned officer.

The immediate cause behind the desertion was learned to be the physical assault of a lieutenant by one of his platoon men and their unit commander's failure to deal with the man involved sternly.

The solon said the Defense Ministry material indicated that the acts of insubordination numbered 113 in 1990, 150 in 1991, 109 in 1992, 132 in 1993 and 89 in the first eight months of this year.

The number of cases of disobedience reached 259 in 1990, 241 in 1991, 285 in 1992, 413 in 1993 and 248 as of the end of August this year.

"I believe that to rectify the situation, the manner of commanding should be changed from the one based on forcible demand and control to a more rational one," Yim said.

Ministry Expects 'Below Average' Rice Crop

SK2809020194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0125 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 28 (YONHAP)—The rice harvest this year is expected to fall short of the target due to a reduction in the area planted in paddy and the summer drought.

According to a rice crop survey conducted by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry on 10,000 sample areas across the country as of Sept. 15, the rice harvest this year is estimated to reach 4,906,000 tons, 177 [as received] tons or 3.5 percent short of the goal of 5,083,000 tons.

The rice harvest estimate this year submitted by the ministry to the National Assembly Wednesday represents an increase of 158,000 tons or 3.3 percent over last year's 4,748,000 tons, the poorest in 13 years. Nevertheless, the rice crop forecast this year is the third lowest since 1980.

The anticipated poor rice harvest is attributed to a sharp reduction in cultivated paddies, the drought and searing heat. The crop will fall below average levels for the second consecutive year, following the cold-weather damage suffered in 1993.

The area of rice cultivation this year is 1,101,000 hectares, 33,000 ha or 2.9 percent below last year's 1,135,000 ha. The drop of 33,000 ha easily exceeds the average annual reduction of 24,000 ha. This is because more rice paddies have been converted to upland fields or left idle.

Almost no rice is expected from about 10,000 ha of paddies across the country because the crop there was destroyed by the severe drought last summer.

The estimated rice harvest per tanbo (0.09 ha) is 446 kilograms, 3 kg below the annual average of 449 kg, but 28 kg or 6.7 percent above last year's 418 kg.

By area, the estimated rice harvest this year is expected to be above average in Kangwon, North Chungchong and South Cholla Provinces, which sustained serious damage from cold weather last year. The remaining areas—Kyonggi and North Cholla Provinces in particular—should reap a harvest slightly below the annual average.

Due to the second consecutive poor harvest, an Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry official said, rice reserves at the end of the current paddy year are likely to decline to 1,161,000 tons from last year's 1,820,000 tons, and further to 876,000 tons at the end of the next rice year.

As a result, the nation's rice self-sufficiency ratio is expected to fall from last year's 96.8 percent to 87.8 percent this year and to 93.6 percent next year.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Leaves for Turkey, Jordan, Turkmenistan

BK2709073294 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed left for Ankara, in Turkey, today on the first leg of a three-nation official visit which will also take him to Jordan and Turkmenistan. Accompanying him a 133-strong delegation which includes 96 businessmen. In Turkey, he is expected to sign a tax agreement.

The prime minister will be in Jordan, where he and his delegation will sign agreements on avoiding double taxation along with accords on trade, investment and economic, technical, and cultural cooperation.

In Turkmenistan, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir will confer with President Saparmurad Niyazov on economic cooperation.

Radio Previews Mahathir Tour

BK2709135194 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's visit to Jordan, Turkey, and Turkmenistan, beginning today, marks another step in building stronger ties between Malaysia and these countries. This caps Dr. Mahathir's relentless efforts to enhance relations and open up trade and investment opportunities between Malaysia and other countries.

The 10-day working visit is packed with a series of business discussions. In all three countries, agreements are expected to be signed to further cement economic linkages. Malaysia and Jordan are expected to sign an agreement on avoidance of double taxation. This will facilitate the private sector of both countries to look at each other's potential for investments. It is clear that as always, Dr. Mahathir means business, as evidenced with the 96-member-strong business group he is leading.

Turkey is renowned to have a relatively well-developed aerospace industry. With Malaysia trying to develop its own aerospace industry in a small way, there is much that Turkey can offer Malaysia. One possible area is in production of light aircraft, for which Turkey could transfer technology to Malaysia. Of course, [words indistinct] of investment areas would be pursued. An area where Malaysia has the expertise is in resource-based activities. For example, both sides could look into downstream processing of palm oil in Turkey. This is a much better option than exporting palm oil. At the same time, Turkey could be the take-off point for palm oil into both Eastern and Western Europe. The same is true for Jordan. In fact, Jordan has asked Malaysia to extend credit facilities under its palm oil credit payment arrangement. Malaysia is only too willing to help out Jordan in this area as it has already done so with countries like Russia.

The Malaysian delegation's visit to Turkmenistan will also be interesting. A former republic of the Soviet Union, Turkmenistan is opening up its economy and aggressively wooing foreign investment. This is where Malaysia can play a big part in helping in the tranformation of its economy to one based on market factors. Malaysian trade officials can extend to their Turkmenistan counterparts their knowledge on the effective ways to attract foreign investment. It is important to realize that with global competition for the foreign dollars, investment destination must be competitive. This means cutting down on red tape, creating a productive labor force and efficiency, all of which are vital to a developing economy. Turkmenistan, which is rich in oil and gas reserve, is also keen to offer itself as the second point for Malaysia's export to Central Asia.

The delegation members following Dr. Mahathir are top business leaders. This means they can actually make business decisions on the spot. This is a golden opportunity for the respective private sectors to push for concrete trade deals and investment tie-ups. The governments are there to provide the backing. It is up to them to fully realize each other's trade and investment potentials. All these will go a long way in enhancing South-South cooperation. There is no doubt that Dr. Mahathir's visit to these countries will open a new era between them and Malaysia.

* Imports from Britain Increase Despite Ban

94SE0238A Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 16 Aug 94 p 14

[Text] Despite the ban on British exports to Malaysia, they increased by 81 percent in the first six months of this year. On the other hand, this business embargo has hurt Malaysia.

The British Embassy in Kuala Lumpur stated yesterday that Malaysian exports to Britain dropped by about 24.5 percent between January and June. British exports to Malaysia, on the other hand, increased to 666 million pounds sterling (about 2.1 trillion rupiahs) from 367.7 million pounds sterling (about 1.13 trillion rupiahs) for the same period of 1993.

British imports from Malaysia dropped to 580.6 million pounds sterling (about 1.8 trillion rupiahs) between January and June of 1994 from 769.7 million pounds sterling (about 2.4 trillion rupiahs) for the same period of 1993.

On 25 February, the Malaysian Government, angry over repeated newspaper reports about British-Malaysian trade relations, which have been tarnished by corruption, announced that it was banning contracts with Britain for government projects.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said that the government would rescind the ban if newspapers would stop printing lies. That statement was specifically aimed at a report in the SUNDAY TIMES which said that a British construction company was prepared to give a bribe of $50,000 to win a construction contract. However, both the Malaysian and British governments have emphasized that the ban is only aimed at government contracts. Private trade between the two nations has continued to take place.

Kamaruddin Abu, the Malaysian ambassador in London, said in Malaysia last week that the ban, which could damage Britain to the tune of billions of pounds sterling or the loss of thousands of jobs due to the loss of those contracts, would not affect private sector trade between the two nations.

* Survey of Japanese Investments Reported

94SE0238B Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 13 Aug 94 p 15

[Text] A number of Japanese companies will carry out a study of the infrastructure potential of the states in the eastern parts of Malaysia, which are now being promoted as new regions for foreign investment.

Hiroshi Nakano, an official of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia, said yesterday that the study would point to possible investments in the industrial corridor in the eastern regions for new or established Japanese investors. The regions include the states of Pahang, Kelantan, and Trengganu on the Malaysian Peninsula and Sabah and Serawak in Borneo. At present, most foreign investors in manufacturing are concentrated in the western part of the Malaysian Peninsula; it is believed that infrastructure obstacles in the eastern regions could cause problems in the ability to compete.

Nakano said that Japanese bankers as well as trading, construction, and manufacturing companies would begin the feasibility study on 12 September. "We want to measure firsthand the potential which this country offers investors," he said.

Last year Japanese investments in Malaysia dropped by almost 50 percent to $573 million as a result of the Japanese recession.

Yesterday JIJI PRESS quoted the Japanese Economic Planning Agency's (JEPA) July report as giving a brighter picture of the Japanese economy. Industrial production was considered to be moving along in a stable way and there are signs that consumer spending has begun to recover.

Director General of JEPA Mashiko Komura said yesterday that the highest priority still is the development of the exchange value. This is still at the adjustment stage, but a brighter atmosphere is beginning to spread and there has been a gradual movement away from gloom and rigidity. However, another source said that it is still hard to determine whether the economy has entered a period of recovery preceded by domestic demand. As examples, he mentioned the drop in corporate capital outlays and uncertainty about the effect of the rising yen on corporate profits.

The Japanese Ministry of Finance also revealed yesterday that the Japanese trade surplus had grown by four percent from about $11.4 billion in June to $12.3 billion in July. The biggest surplus was in trade with the United States, which reached $5.6 billion.

On the whole, July exports rose by 6.9 percent to $34.4 billion, due in particular to semiconductor and automobile exports. At the same time, imports rose by 8.5 percent to $22.1 billion due to office supply, aircraft, and semiconductor purchases.

Exports to the United States rose by 14.3 percent to $10.6 billion, especially motor bikes, which jumped almost $2.6 billion. Imports from the United States, especially aircraft, also rose by 8.6 percent to $5 billion.

The trade surplus with Asia also rose by 13.7 percent to $6.3 billion. Exports to this region rose by 12.1 percent to $13.9 billion, especially semiconductors, whereas imports rose by 10.8 percent to $7.6 billion, especially audiovisual equipment and office supplies.

The surplus with the European Union fell by 7.4 percent to $1.9 billion. Exports to the 12 European nations rose by 1.8 percent to $4.8 billion, held back by a drop in automobile and audiovisual equipment exports. Imports rose by 8.7 percent to $2.9 billion, especially garments.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Awards Medal to Thai Company Chief

BK2809020594 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister, recently signed a decision awarding a first-class medal for national construction and support of the frontline battlefield to Theng Bunma, chairman of the Thai Bunrong Company, for providing $10,360-worth of foodstuff and goods to assist the Khmer Royal Armed Forces on the frontline battlefield.

Ranariddh Urges Expansion of Airport Runway

BK2809060094 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 26-27 Sep 94 p 12

[Text] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, said recently at the Cabinet Office that we should spend $4 million to repair Pochentong Airport, especially to extend the runway by another kilometer, because with our current runway we cannot guarantee that there will be no accidents. Accidents could occur because the runway is too old.

The prince krompreah said that if the airport's surface is not even or correct and an accident occurs during landing, aircraft could be be damaged; we would have to pay the airline companies as well as provide compensation for the loss of life, and the insurance companies could ask for compensation for damages in excess of $4 million. Furthermore, this could damage our country's reputation; people would not invest and planes would not land here.

The prince proposed that the Public Works Ministry be placed in charge of repairing and extending the runway at the international airport. Work should be done at night to enable the airport to operate normally during daytime.

The prince further said that if we extend and expand the runway, it will be able to accommodate larger aircraft. Even when traffic is heavier our economy will still grow. Therefore the Finance Ministry must strive to find $4 million for the Public Works Ministry to extend and expand the runway.

Planning Minister Reviews Regional Talks

BK2809051694 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 28 Sep 94 p 4

[Summary] After returning to Phnom Penh on 24 September from the 15-16 September regional cooperation meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Planning Minister Chea Chanto told reporters that he had proposed that a hydropower system able to serve the international electricity network in Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam be built near the Sekong-Sesan River in Cambodia's Stung Treng Province.

Chea Chanto also talked about construction of two international roads. The first, 526 kilometers long and funded by about $200 million from the Asian Development Bank, will link Bangkok, Phnom Penh, and Ho Chi Minh City. Construction will start in 1996 and last four years. The road starts in Vientiane and passes through Stung Treng Province and Phnom Penh on the way to Sihanoukville.

Chea Chanto said he also asked for funds to build a new international port in Phnom Penh and to repair the Sihanoukville port and Pochentong airport.

Lao Request for Access To Sihanoukville Accepted

BK2709120894 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Ing Kiet, state minister and minister of Public Works and Transport, says Laos has requested for permission to build a road from the south of Laos through Cambodia to the port of Sihanoukville. H.E. Ing Kiet was informed of this request during his recent visit to Laos. Laos made this request because it desires to have maritime economic relations with the world like Cambodia. H.E. Ing Kiet added that this request was made by the Lao prime minister and that Cambodian Government has already agreed to it. The questions remaining are its route and whether Laos wants Cambodia to share in building it.

Official Doubts Plan To Carry Freight by Train

BK2809070894 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 28 Sep 94 p 4

[Summary] Va Soknat, deputy chief of Sihanoukville's international port, made the following comment on 25 September: "We stand to lose rather than gain if the Public Works and Transport Ministry goes ahead with the plan to carry freight entirely by train while National Route 4 is being restored." He was referring to a loss of revenue for the state and a loss of jobs for about 1,000 dock workers.

National Route 4 from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville will be repaired by Fischbach International Inc. beginning in October 1994. Work will be completed a year and a half later, by April 1996. During this period, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's plan, the transport of freight and heavy goods along National Route 4 will be suspended and transferred to trains running between Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh. Va Soknat said that some companies that plan to import goods into Cambodia, the Japanese in particular, have already balked at the prospect of having freight carried by train from Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh. These companies are concerned about train safety, security, and delivery delays and have said that the goods they plan to import—fertilizer, vehicles, and equipment—might be brought into Cambodia via a Vietnamese port and ferried by river barge to Phnom Penh's port.

According to Va Soknat, transport safety is not the only problem. He believes that the train service will not be able to meet demand. Between 40,000 and 50,000 tons of freight destined for Phnom Penh are unloaded monthly at Sihanoukville port. Between 1,000 and 1,500 tons of goods leave the port daily. Will the daily train be able to cope with large containers and carry passengers at the same time? If untoward incidents occur at places inaccessible by road, how can these containers be lifted and transferred to trucks or other trains?

In Va Soknat's opinion, the government should also repair National Route 3 from Kampot to Prey Nop District in Kompong Som City to provide an additional road transport line that can fully meet demand.

It should be noted that in order to increase its transport activities and ensure rail safety and security, the Cambodian Railway Company has asked the government for 700 million riel to consolidate the Kampot-Sihanoukville stretch of the railway line, which has been damaged by Khmer Rouge activities and recent floods, and to acquire 20-40 carriages capable of carrying at least 100 containers. As for security, Cambodian Railway Company Director Pich Kimsreang says that the Royal Government, the National Defense Ministry, and the local authorities will cooperate to ensure safety along the railway line.

Broadcaster Decides To Impose Self-Censorship

BK2709131494 Phnom Penh THE CAMBODIA DAILY in English 23-25 Sep 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Lor Chandara]

[Text] Under pressure from the Royal Government, the Thai-owned International Broadcasting Corporation [IBC] (Cambodia) has decided to stop carrying news critical of the government and news given to it by NGOs [nongovernmental organizations]. The IBC decision was contained in a September 19 memorandum obtained yesterday by THE CAMBODIA DAILY. In the past, the memo says, IBC covered as many NGO conferences and forums as it was invited to attend.

"But IBC has been threatened by the government and other groups for spreading information that does not follow the Royal Government's policies," the statement reveals. Therefore "it is impossible," the memo continues, "to cover information at the invitation of some NGOs and associations which have objectives and policies contrary to the Cambodian Royal Government led by H.R.H. [His Royal Highness] Norodom Ranariddh, first Prime Minister, and Samdech Hun Sen, second Prime Minister."

The threats and warnings, which apparently do not include closure, have come from the Ministry of Information, according to IBC News Director and Editor Prum Kim.

"I don't remember exactly when we have been warned but it has often been after IBC has broadcast news programs about NGOs and other groups that express political concerns contrary to government principles such as the Khmer Journalists Association or human rights groups who say that the government has not given full freedom to journalists," Prum Kim said in an interview yesterday.

One program singled out for criticism has been "The Public Audience," a popular current affairs show in which participants often give their opinions of the government. While the program will not be taken off the air, Prum Kim said he was concerned about it because audience members sometimes criticized the government.

Pin Samkhon, president of the journalists association, linked the threats against IBC to a larger government crackdown on the press in an interview yesterday. But IBC, which has become more popular than its two competitors in the past several months, has never strayed far from the government line.

In early August, Prum Kim told the PHNOM PENH POST that IBC voluntarily submits all its material to the Ministry of Information for review. He also said he followed the lead of government-owned Television Kampuchea (TVK) in making decisions about what should be aired.

"The royal government wants IBC to broadcast more like TVK," Prum Kim said yesterday. "And they have only forbidden us to broadcast politically. The government wants our support, not criticism."

Article Criticizes Lack of Results From Probes

BK2709131994 Phnom Penh THE CAMBODIA DAILY in English 22 Sep 94 p 7

[Article by Matthew Roberts: "Government Investigators: On the Road to Nowhere"]

[Text] Remember the Thais? Eight Thai men were detained in connection with a failed coup attempt on July 2. That was 82 days ago. They have yet to be formally accused of anything. The government is investigating.

Sin Song, one of the suspected instigators of the failed coup attempt, escaped under mysterious circumstances from T-3 prison two weeks ago. The government is investigating.

Two weeks ago Nun Chan, the editor of the Voice of Khmer Youth, a newspaper known to be critical of the government, was murdered near Wat Phnom. Eyewitnesses have testified that at least one of the assassins was in a police uniform. The government is investigating.

A day later, a UN vehicle was stolen with a five year-old girl in the back seat. She was later found in front of the National Museum with a bullet wound in her thigh. The government is investigating.

To date, not one of these investigations has revealed a single piece of incisive information. No one has been apprehended. This should come as no surprise. When, in the last year, has a governmental investigation gone anywhere?

A professor of physics once explained to me The Law of Entropy—the law by which forces in the universe seek a lower energy level. Governmental investigations in Cambodia seem to be obeying this law. Once an investigation begins, the event and the facts surrounding the event fade from public view. Finally, they are forgotten.

Perhaps the government is making progress on these investigations. Perhaps results are on the way. But the recent past would suggest otherwise. By opposing an active and outspoken press, the government is tacitly encouraging this forgetfulness. It is the press, after all, who keep issues alive in the public's consciousness.

The negotiations to free the three hostages being held near the Phnum Voar mountain range—the subject of worldwide scrutiny—seem to be following a similar pattern. In the case of the hostages, entropy will not suffice.

Indonesia

Group Leaves for Talks With Overseas Timorese

BK2709143594 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0800 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Jakarta, 27 September (ANTARA)—A 15-member Indonesian delegation led by Roving Ambassador Lopez da Cruz left Jakarta today for London to attend the second round of reconciliation talks with a Portugal-based East Timorese group led by Abilio de Araujo.

MP Salvador Ximenes Soares, who is also a member of the delegation of the Republic of Indonesia to the London talks, told reporters in Jakarta on Tuesday that the meeting will be positive. He said the reconciliation talks will be more effective if the government agrees to include other overseas East Timorese.

Soares said there are four important overseas East Timor groups because of their international connections. They are led by Ramos Horta, Jose Gueserris, Joao Carrascalao, and Abilio de Araujo respectively. According to Soares, in addition to the Abilio group, the other groups should also be approached to achieve a comprehensive solution to the East Timor issue at the reconciliation talks.

The delegation of the Republic of Indonesia, which will stay in London for six days, consists of members of the East Timor Provincial House of Representatives and East Timorese community leaders, including Francisco Xavier do Amaral, former president of the Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor].

Soares also responded positively to the postponement of discussions on the East Timor issue at the United Nations this year. He, however, regretted the way the Japanese television, NHK, reported the results of the visit of a Japanese parliamentary delegation to Indonesia, including East Timor some time ago because they tended to distort the facts.

"NHK's special report on the working visit of the Japanese parliamentary delegation, which tended to distort the facts or find fault by featuring a video clip on the 12 November incident, is highly regrettable," said Soares, a young East Timorese leader and concurrently a member of the Interparliamentary Cooperation Board of the House of Representatives.

According to news reports from Tokyo, NHK last week aired a 45- minute report on the results of the visit of the Japanese parliamentary delegation to Indonesia prior to the newscast at 2100 local time.

Reports on Indonesia, especially the East Timor issue that include video clips that ostensibly depict the brutal Dili incident have been aired several times. One such report preceded a report on President Suharto's visit to Japan some time ago.

Economic Agreements Signed With Thailand

BK2809071194 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1827 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 27 September (ANTARA)—There is now a stronger basis for economic and technical cooperation between Indonesia and Thailand following the signing of "agreed minutes" [preceding two words in English] as a result of the second meeting of the Indonesia-Thailand Joint Commission. The agreement was signed by Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri at the Thai Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York on Monday.

The agreement covers bilateral cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, tourism, energy, communications, telecommunications, science and technology, agriculture, fishery, and forestry. The second meeting of the joint commission was held in Bangkok on 26 and 27 August.

Prasong said in a speech after the signing ceremony that he was satisfied with the success of senior officials in identifying new areas of cooperation as part of efforts to enhance existing bilateral cooperation.

The successful conclusion of the second meeting of the joint commission has reflected excellent bilateral relations and demonstrated the strong commitment and dedication of senior officials and the private sector from both countries to the enhancement of bilateral relations.

On the same occasion, Alatas said that Indonesian-Thai relations and cooperation have undergone extraordinary improvement over the past several years. Indonesian exports to Thailand increased from US$87.2 million in 1987 to over US$423 million in 1993.

The signing of the agreed minutes [preceding two words in English], he continued, has reflected not only the commitment of the two governments to the enhancement of the existing good relations but has also opened the way for strengthening ASEAN cooperation and solidarity.

* Suharto Equates Democracy With Stability

94SE0242B Jakarta BISNIS INDONESIA in Indonesian 18 Aug 94 p 12

[Text] President Suharto stated that political stability results from the implementation of a healthy and fresh democracy.

"Firm political stability is created when the people have broad support for it," said the president in his state-of-the-union address to Parliament on 16 August 1994.

"The political stability which we desire does not come about through coercion or because there are no alternatives. Political stability is our common concern. Political stability does not mean maintaining worn-out values or perpetuating the status quo."

The president stated that we require not a static but rather a dynamic political stability. This opens up the development process, which produces even firmer political stability. "We started this renewal at the birth of the New Order, more than 25 years ago."

"Renewal requires an open atmosphere. From year to year there has been more and more openness. New, fresh ideas and values have appeared among us and we have examined them openly and deeply so that the good ones have grown into part of our national political culture. But we must firmly reject and stay far away from those who do not accord with our national identity and character. The openness that we require is a responsible openness."

The Head of State said that it is valid to fight for any political desire, as long as it is done democratically and constitutionally. "National stability clearly requires an atmosphere of safety and order."

The Role of ABRI [Republic of Indonesia Armed Forces]

The president explained that the ABRI has a rather important role in national security, both as a force defending security and as a sociopolitical force. The ABRI as a stabilizer and a dynamizer in development, he said, has carried out its task very well. "The ABRI has never abandoned its essential nature of fighting soldiers born of the people, fighting for the people, and together with the people."

During the five periods of REPELITA [Five-Year Development Plan], the president said, the ABRI has been very limited. The amount budgeted for the armed forces has been very small compared to other countries, he added, especially in view of the size of the population and of the country which must be defended and made safe.

"In fact, we have a relatively small amount budgeted for the armed forces among the ASEAN countries. However, under such circumstances they have carried out very well the tasks of defending our sovereignty, making our country safe, defending the integrity of our nation, our territory and the security of our people, and also making efforts at development."

The president stated that with limited funds ABRI has developed into an effective, authoritative force and one that has strong defense capabilities.

"The ABRI has passed through a process of integration and consolidation and has now become a modern, reliable, and effective force."

The Head of State believes that the ABRI has also taken part in the joint efforts of the community of nations to maintain peace at various places in the world.

The Problem of Debt

On this occasion the president urged the advanced nations and international financial organizations to thoroughly reduce the developing nations' debt. "There must be a thorough settlement of debts so that the debtor nations need not arrange for them again and again."

The Head of State said that solving the problem of debt must be carried out in such a way that the debtor nations can truly begin to develop.

President Suharto—who is also the Head of the Non-Bloc Movement—said that the thorough settlement of developing countries' debts, especially those of the Non-Bloc countries, would be a significant relief.

In light of the ministerial-level meeting of Non-Bloc Movement members which took place in Jakarta from 13 to 16 August and which examined the problems of debt and development, the president emphasized that Indonesia does not intend to take over the task of settling those debts.

"The goal of the meeting was an exchange of ideas about the problems of debt and development."

The Head of State also said that the Non-Bloc Movement has taken a new approach to the developed nations, not to confront them but to be their partners.

Touching on world development, the president said that the developed nations were trying to organize the world's economy among themselves. "But it is clear that the world is bigger than just the developed nations. More than two thirds of the world's population is in the developing nations."

At the ceremony, which was also attended by participants at the three-day meeting of the Non-Bloc Movement, the Head of State mentioned the formation of the APEC forum as a concrete example of cooperation between the developed nations and the developing nations as partners.

* Economic Indicators Omit Environmental Costs

94SE0237B Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 12 Aug 94 p 8

[Text] Serang (KOMPAS)—The computation of Indonesian macroeconomic indicators does not include any costs resulting from damage to the environment. Because the problem of environmental damage and pollution has not so far been integrated into national or regional environment, the impact of environmental damage on national economic growth has not been well resolved.

Minister of State for the Environment Sarwono Kusumaatmadja said this Wednesday, 10 August, at

Serang, West Java, when be opened a seminar sponsored by the Serang District Regional Government on using the potential of class C excavation products.

Serang District Chief H. Sukron Roshadi said he has the difficult task of combating environmental damage caused by the exploitation of class C excavation products. Serang's economic growth target of 8 percent per year often collides with problems of damage to the environment. Sukron did not deny that his area needs class C excavation products for the building of various kinds of infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and settlements.

According to Sarwono, the Serang District has a gross regional domestic product (PDRB) of 1.5 million rupiah per capita, the largest in Indonesia except for Jakarta. "Is the size of the per capita income reflected in the standard of living of the people in general? It is hard to envision," Sarwono said.

Sarwono added that there is also no correlation at all between macroindicators and what one sees at the micro level in the field. In addition, Sarwono said, there has never been any calculation of the effect of environmental damage on the PDRB. "Serang's PDRB is indeed more than 1.5 million rupiah; but if the consequences of environmental damage and pollution were counted, I am sure that figure would not be the net PDRB," Sarwono asserted.

As for the lack of correlation between macroindicators and realities in the field, Sarwono added that this is a result of the fact that the method currently used for gathering development statistics is still incomplete.

"Development statistics reflect only income and do not reflect losses," he declared. He added that, according to the World Resource Institute, while Indonesia says its annual growth is six percent, the figure would be only four percent if environmental damage were really calculated.

"That two percent represents the damage figure. We do not yet know how to calculate that, however," Sarwono said.

As an example, Sarwono noted that Indonesia has statistics for calculating increased exports from the fishing sector, but no calculation is made of losses caused by the shrinking of tidal land and damage to coral reefs.

"Damage to tidal land and coral reefs was once calculated by LIPI [Indonesian Science Institute], but LIPI was never included in economic projects. Thus, there is confusion," declared Sarwono. Damage to tidal forests in Indonesia results not only from the community's minimal knowledge of the benefits of such forests, he added, but many members of the community still have negative views of tidal forests.

Sarwono, who Wednesday afternoon went aboard the SAR [search and rescue] vessel ADPEL [Port Administrator] 209 in the Banten Gulf, Serang, said that only 2 million hectares of the original 13.4 million hectares of tidal forests—also often called mangrove forests because they are dominated by mangrove trees—now remain in Indonesia. "I truly worry about this situation," he said.

Regarding tidal forests around the Banten Gulf, Iwan Affandi, chief of the branch of the Natural Resource Conservation Office (BKSDA) in Banten, said that besides being damaged by the community itself to clear land for shrimp ponds and firewood, forests are also damaged by massive reclamation and coastal dredging by industry.

"The remaining tidal forest consists of 38 hectares at Pulau Dua, which is free of industry," Iwan said. He added that, thanks to conservation efforts conducted during the last two years by the Banten BKSDA, there are now actually about 100 hectares of tidal forest at Pulau Dua.

Sarwono said further that for decades the Indonesian coastal community has been clear-cutting the tidal forests. If this is allowed to continue, Indonesia may suffer a shortage of fish. Besides serving as breeding grounds, tidal forests also slow the rate of coastal infiltration and abrasion.

As KOMPAS observed around the Banten Gulf, fishermen, especially those based around the natural harbor at Pulo Kalih, Cilegon, have long complained that their catches have declined drastically, particularly since the appearance of the dozens of chemical plants that line the entire coast of the Banten Gulf.

Sarwono admitted that he does not yet have exact figures on losses produced by damage to tidal forests. Scientists with mastery of the tidal problem have been making evaluations for years, but their evaluations are still being distributed among themselves.

Sarwono said that the cost of rehabilitating tidal forests can be classified as light, namely 1.5 million rupiah per square kilometer for about 10,000 trees. "Thus, it appears that there is no justification for regional governments to claim cost as a reason for not rehabilitating tidal forests," Sarwono said.

According to Sarwono, it is difficult for Serang District to avoid the environmental consequences caused by the impact of class C excavation. Conditions in Banten Residency are very attractive for construction. Besides being close to JABOTEK [Jakarta, Bogor, Tangerang, and Bekasi], Banten is also inspired to build ports, because this area once had economic success through the existence of ports.

"Such construction naturally needs sand and stone from nearby areas," said the minister of state for the environment.

Serang also cannot prevent shore problems from class C excavation and coastal reclamation. Therefore, Sarwono again warned that there is a pressing need to calculate net benefits from excavation of class C products.

Sarwono admitted it is true that through recommending class C excavation the regional government does indeed receive PAD (regionally derived income). Such PAD amounts only to hundreds of millions of rupiah at most, however, and if class C excavation has impacts, such as on dams, bridges, or roads, the cost of repairs will be greater than the PAD obtained. The way out, said Sarwono, is to require an AMDAL (analysis of environmental impact) for class C excavation operations covering more than 200 hectares or producing more than 300,000 cubic meters per year.

Philippines

Government Sets Funds for GATT 'Safety Nets'

BK2609103294 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Cathy Canares]

[Text] Malacanang and Congress yesterday agreed to appropriate P [Philippine pesos] 72 billion for the next five years to protect the agricultural sector from the adverse effects of the country's accession to the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The allocation of funds for the government's "safety nets" was agreed upon during a meeting of members of the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC), which identified four agricultural areas requiring protection from the new global trade pact.

Senate President Edgardo Angara said the government would initially earmark P15 billion annually in the 1995 and 1996 budgets for "adjustment measures" to protect farmers. He, however, stressed that the Senate's action on the world treaty would depend on the decision on the matter by the country's major trading partners such as the United States, Japan and Europe.

The acceptance of the trade pact by these countries "will affect significantly the Senate's vote, (this November)" Angara said.

"Critical mass is a necessity. If the United States and Japan will not ratify it, we won't. But it will allow us to put more time in our schedule," he said.

In this connection, Senator Ernesto Maceda, presidenf of the Nationalist People's Coalition, said the party will block the ratification of the GATT "unless government is able to set in place the much needed safety nets for the sectors to be adversely affected by the treaty."

Maceda warned that his party members, in the Senate "are likely to delay the ratification...by interpellating (those) favoring it when it is finally presented for floor deliberations."

Malacanang has been pressing the Senate to ratify the GATT before January 1995 so the country can qualify as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and avail itself of more privileges in international trade.

Other developments:

—A coalition against GATT has opposed the planned conversion of rice and corn lands into plantations for a high value crops. They said this would chain the agriculture sector to the "boom-bust" cycle of the world export market.

—A group of scientists from the University of the Philippines [UP] claimed that the promotion of "biotechnology" under the trade pact could benefit, rather than harm, the country. They said the country's entry into this field could boost Philippine food production and exports.

Apart from the annual allocation of "safety nets" fund, the government will also undertake adjustment measures that will help cushion the impact of the GATT on farmers producing grains, livestock, fisheries and commercial crops, Agriculture Secretary Roberto Sebastian said in a press briefing.

He said these measures involve the government's utilization of the funds of other agencies, like the departments of agriculture, agrarian reform, environment and natural resources, transportation and communication, and the National Irrigation Authority, to complement the requirements of putting up the safety nets for the agriculture sector.

The three others call for the immediate enactment of "irrigation crisis bill," amendment or plugging the loophole of the Agri-Agra Law and the close monitoring of wheat imports.

Sebastian said the enactment of an irrigation crisis bill will fast track the completion of 150 "doable" irrigation projects throughout the country by 1996.

Amendments in the provisions of the Agri-Agra Law will require commercial banks to actually use for farm lending 25 percent or approximately P175 billion of their funds, instead of investing it in the money market.

The establishment of a monitoring system for low-tariff wheat imports intended for food will curb their diversion to the livestock and poultry as feeds. He said the same measure will also ensure that imported corn, subject to 10 percent tariff, will still be priced higher than domestic corn.

Sebastian said these measures were meant to "correct misconceptions that cheap imports will flood the country once we accept the GATT."

The agriculture secretary said that as part of the safety nets, the government would continue to impose high tariffs on imports, including corn, and retain the qualitative restriction on rice imports.

Economic Development Director Cielito Habito added that a fifth measure under study involves the shift in the focus of farm production from rice and corn to higher-value crops.

"This is a very important opportunity as far as taking an offensive, given what we have already in place," Habito said, adding that unlike high-value crops, rice and corn are considered marginal farm products.

High-value crops, unlike rice and corn, are easy to sell abroad, apart from generating higher revenues for producers, Habito said, even as he noted that farmers who shifted from rice and corn to asparagus have experienced a three-fold increase in their incomes.

A nationwide coalition against the GATT, however, warned of another "Negros experience" should the government pursue its plan to convert rice and corn lands into plantations for high value crops.

The plan is tied to the Philippines' acceptance of the GATT, which is expected to open up a large market abroad for farm crops such as asparagus, fruits and even cut flowers, dubbed as "sure winners" in the world export market.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas [Farmers' Movement of the Philippines] (Pumalag) claimed that this policy direction would chain the Philippine farm sector to the "boom-bust" world market cycle, similar to what happened and continue to happen to the sugar industry in Negros.

Apart from endangering the country's food security, this government thrust would allow the massive exemption of farmlands from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp), the coalition said.

UP biotechnologists, Apolinario Nazarea and Flerida Carino, defended in a forum yesterday the new program of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to give priority in the development and improvement of local expertise in biotechnology, which involves the creation of genetically-engineered microorganisms.

They downplayed fears that biotechnology would trigger an environmental disaster and insisted that its application in domestic production could even boost the Philippines' competitive stance in international trading, which is expected to pick up once free trade is formalized under the WTO.

"There is not going to be any Three Mile Island or Chernobyl-like disaster with biotechnology," they declared.

Thailand

Report Previews Chuan Agenda in Canada, U.S.

BK2809060294 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his delegation left this morning for an official visit to Canada. The visit is being made at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien to further strengthen bilateral relations. Canada is one of the advanced industrialized countries, or G-7, which play an important role in the security and economy of the Asia-Pacific region. Chuan says that the visit will enhance the relationship between leaders of both countries after no such visit during the past 11 years. [passage omitted]

After visiting Canada from 25 September to 5 October, the prime minister will also visit the United States to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

[Begin Chuan recording] There will not be specific issues to discuss, because the President has invited me to witness the establishment of the Thai-U.S. Business Council, which was in fact proposed by us. I proposed this to the President during a meeting with him in Seattle. Once this organization has been established, we will both see cooperation between the businessmen of both countries. On the same occasion, the President will kindly devote his time to a discussion with me. Therefore, I plan to discuss with him general issues on the bilateral and international levels. [end recording]

In Canada, Chuan is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien and the full delegation will participate in official meetings. The discussion will focus on the expansion of trade volume, investment, and cooperation in developing and transferring technology in various fields. The consultations will also touch upon cooperation in Asia-Pacific, especially Thailand's readiness to become the economic center of Southeast Asia, as well as regional developments.

Chuan will also meet the Canadian governor general, the parliament president, and Vancouver and Toronto businessmen.

During the visit, agreements on mutual legal assistance and a memorandum of understanding on space cooperation regarding surveys of natural resources through satellites are expected to be signed.

According to today's itinerary, Chuan and his delegation are scheduled to leave Bangkok at 0710 on Thai Airways International Flight TG 770 for Los Angeles. From there, they will board a special Canadian Airlines flight to arrive at Vancouver Airport at 1545, after which they will proceed to the hotel. At 1900 the Thai ambassador in Ottawa will host a dinner in honor of the delegation.

Editorial: Clinton's UN Speech 'Shows Maturity'

BK2809065394 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Sep 94 p A6

[Editorial: "Clinton's UN speech shows maturity in foreign policy"]

[Text] A year ago in his first address to the United Nations General Assembly, US President Bill Clinton complained about the cost and efficiency of UN peacekeeping operations But that claim would hardly have been appropriate this time, particularly following the United Nations' support for US action in Haiti.

Last year the concern was that the international community would drag the US into conflicts that Washington would have been able to avoid. After the bitter experience of Somalia and the war in the former Yugoslavia, there was a reluctance on Clinton's commitment to contribute US soldiers to help enforce a potential peace agreement in Bosnia. He bluntly told the UN to address the hard questions about the cost of missions and their objectives and how much of a threat the problems posed to the international community.

On Monday, it was a more understanding Bill Clinton who attacked the sceptics and urged the international community to look past the problems of cost, self-interest and pessimism.

Clinton's call in his address to the General Assembly for an expanded peacekeeping role by the United Nations reflects Washington's current concern over the UN-incurred problems in Rwanda, Somalia and Cambodia. This current concern is a reflection of the maturation of the Clinton Administration as it comes to realize that many of the problems where the UN has jumped in feet first are essentially political. Unless political solutions are found, the idea of a limited peacekeeping operation is not going to work.

Sadly, this logic has not been applied to Haiti. The problems in this Caribbean island are essentially of a political nature and a military solution through an intervention is not going to be the answer. Washington has yet to learn that a limited neutral intervention is not a quick fix; a couple of thousand UN peacekeepers are not sufficient to restore democracy in Haiti. What the US should be doing instead is to reconcile differences between traditional enemies and try to rebuild the structure of Haitian society.

Under the present circumstances, even if President-in-exile Jean- Bertrand Aristide returns with the help of the US government, and all goes according to Washington's plan, the Haitian people will still be hungry. Though there will be fewer political prisoners and fewer massacres, the essential structure of Haitian society will not change until the real economic problems are confronted. The aftershock of history is powerful in Haiti, and painful.

Haiti aside, in Clinton's address to the General Assembly, the US president implied that there must be a multilateral political effort to resolve any particular problem before UN peacekeeping efforts are resorted to. When certain agreements have been reached between the conflicting parties, then the UN can go into the particular area as an international symbol to enforce a pact already reached.

In reality, however, things have been quite different. Though the United States genuinely wants to help solve current conflicts in the world, Washington many times has opted for the method that involves the least cost monetarily, often prompting critics to point out that it would have been better if the US had stayed out of the particular troubled area.

The United States now is trying to come to grips with what it means to be in an odd position in the world today. It is no longer a superpower; the Cold War is over and as the world becomes multipolar, the United States is the first among equals in a world of nations. Washington has not quite figured out clearly what that means in the current structure of geopolitics. By the same measure, other nations have not decided the basis of their relationship with Washington. Many still think too much of the United States and many still think too little of it.

Frankly, the United States is going through a process of adjustment that will probably take a few years.

Clinton's speech to the UN General Assembly was essentially a good one and this is a reflection of the growing maturity of the president's foreign policy after over a year in office. When the president first assumed office, his foreign policy statements were mere rhetoric compared to his administration's cautious and prudent actions. That led to charges of hypocrisy and eroded Clinton's credibility.

On Monday, however, Clinton displayed a more measured understanding of the role of the United States in the world, and this is welcomed.

Alleged Drug Dealer Watthana Interviewed

BK2709124394 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Sep 94 p A4

[Interview with Chat Thai Party Deputy Leader Watthana Atsawahem by Sumit Hanpanyaphichit and Kritsana Chaiyarat; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Weeks after you were accused of drug trafficking, have you reached a conclusion about what really happened?

[Watthana Atsawahem] I have thought things over. It is politics, absolutely politics. The US move is a political one influenced or requested by some people in our country.

[Reporter] Do you still believe that the ultimate aim is to destroy the opposition?

[Watthana] What I can say is that I am a key target, because without me the Chat Thai Party would have broken apart a long time ago. I'm not flattering myself. I'm talking about facts. If some people wanted to destroy the opposition, they might think aiming at me would yield the best results.

[Reporter] Would you say that those people who wanted to destroy you or the opposition had asked the United States to help?

[Watthana] I believe there was some kind of coordination. And I don't think I am the only target. There are a lot more, who will be destroyed one by one. I can't stand still. They have ruined my family and my reputation. They have destroyed the Thai Parliament. I have to fight. I cannot act like others accused who let themselves be on the receiving end.

Do you think I was that stupid, to get involved in drugs? I am already rich. I have businesses. Why do I have to do drugs? I hate drugs, and consider every drug trafficker a stupid man. I am not stupid.

[Reporter] You seem very convinced that more people will be accused of drug involvement.

[Watthana] Whether there will be more or not depend on how I will end up.

[Reporter] Do you have any evidence to prove that this is a case of political persecution?

[Watthana] I have taken legal action, and that show my determination to prove my innocence. I sued even Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, whose allegations against me during no-confidence debate were uncalled for. I sued him because he lied, because he has prejudice against a Thai citizen, whom he is supposed to protect.

You can see how systematically those people worked. Before the censure debate, news was leaked that the debate would turn out to be a censure against the opposition. Then faxes were sent to news offices accusing me of drug trafficking and the media picked it up. They accused me of being involved in the drug trade for more than 20 years. If that is true, why didn't they arrest me during my previous trips to the United States? Didn't they have evidence?

[Reporter] Maybe the United States simply suspects you but has no hard evidence.

[Watthana] Look at the way they treated me. I'm an MP; I have served as minister for many ministries, and I am a deputy leader of the biggest opposition party. There were better ways to investigate me other than issuing press statements out of the blue. I suppose this is an illegal way to treat an individual, even in the United States itself. I am a man with honour. I have business to care for.

I am not above the law. Do you think the Thai authorities will spare an opposition leader if they know he is involved in drugs? I don't think so. Moreover, the Thai narcotics chief, Pol Gen [Police General] Chawalit Yotmani, has declared that the Thai authorities have no evidence to back the US claims.

[Reporter] Do you really think the US government will comply with a Thai request to smear Thai politician?

[Watthana] I know this is a very sensitive thing and we should not make accusations without evidence. Accusing people without evidence is against my principles. But, as I told you, I have thought it over and I see very systematic development.

[Reporter] Had you been at odds with Minister Prasong before?

[Watthana] We never knew each other personally. I don't know where Prasong was when I served as minister. We never had problems.

[Reporter] How many people do you think believe the accusations?

[Watthana] I don't know. But I have done everything in the proper way to protect myself. I have sent letters to the Parliament president and the prime minister. I have thanked the prime minister for having spoken out against some improper practices. I think the majority of Thais will understand. If I were not good enough, I would not have been elected MP many times in a row. Many people who wanted to destroy me have had themselves destroyed. In the latest case, I don't think he will pay for it in the next life.

[Reporter] We have heard that Prasong has had to live under tight security.

[Watthana] I have been praying that nothing should happen to Prasong now, otherwise I will be in big trouble. I am a man, a civilized man. I don't use force. They had better give the officers (protecting Prasong) a more useful job.

[Reporter] Many people wonder how did you become rich?

[Watthana] The Atsawahem clan is not poor. We have a lot of properties and we earn money from business. But I have never boasted about my wealth. I'm down to earth. I can eat noodles on the roadside.

Regarding the hotel I bought in Mae Sai, whose owner was alleged to be involved in drugs, it was just a business opportunity. I bought it from a trust, not the man in question. I saw an opportunity so I grabbed it. That's it.

[Reporter] If the Chat Thai Party becomes a coalition partner, do you think that will affect the Thai-US relations?

[Watthana] I don't think so. This is a personal matter, not national issue. When I served as a deputy interior minister overseeing labour affairs, I had a lot of contacts with US officials. When some US citizens were jailed here on drug charges, I was asked for help. I was even invited to visit the United States. I have documents to support this. Do you think they would invite me if they knew I had been involved in drugs for 20 years?

Before the July 4, more than 1,500 Samut Prakan people planned a big march in front of the US Embassy. I thanked them but asked them to cancel the plan. I did not want to be accused of masterminding such a protest.

[Reporter] There were reports that on July 4 you lobbied for MPs to boycott the embassy's Independence Day function.

[Watthana] I wrote letters. I was exercising my right. This is different from organizing or being behind a demonstration.

[Reporter] Will the allegations affect your chance of becoming a minister again?

[Watthana] It is up to the media and the people. If they don't want me to, I won't take a Cabinet post. I am not lusting after any ministerial portfolio.

[Reporter] Will you accept it if the party asks you not to become a minister?

[Watthana] It depends on what reasons they give me. But I don't want to think about that now.

[Reporter] Have Chat Thai leaders ever discussed the possibility that more party members may be targeted for similar accusations?

[Watthana] Nobody is afraid of this kind of game, a cartoon game. It is too [illegible] to send out faxes and cook things up.

Prasong To Visit Phnom Penh on Detainees

BK2809080594 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Sep 94 p 8

[Report by Saritdet Marukathat]

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said here yesterday he is arranging a short visit to Phnom Penh in order to speed up the release of nine Thai nationals being detained by the Cambodian Government.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said he would visit the Cambodian capital on a "peace mission" after concluding his trips to China and Mongolia which begin October 13.

"The visit will take place by early November and it will be very short, just one or two days," he said. The visit signals that the Thais in question would have to stay in Phnom Penh for at least one more month if both sides could not find a way to resolve the issue. The nine Thais were ordered detained by the Cambodian Government for alleged involvement in a failed coup. The future of the nine Thais was discussed briefly yesterday by Sqn Ldr Prasong and Cambodian Foreign Minister Norodom Sirivut at the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Prince Sirivut insisted that they will be released only on condition that Cambodian authorities can "interview" the 14 Thais suspects now in Bangkok in order to end the coup investigation, Sqn Ldr Prasong quoted him as saying.

Cambodia's request seemed to have reduced the chances for the release of the nine Thais detained in Cambodia because only two of the 14 Thai suspects have expressed willingness to be questioned by Khmer officials on Thai soil. He also quoted Prince Sirivut as saying that the Cambodian Government did not want to prolong the issue because it had no desire to let the issue affect relations between the two countries.

Sqn Ldr Prasong arrived in the US from Germany on Sunday, where he attended a meeting between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the European Union. He will attend a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers today before departing for Vancouver tomorrow to join Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's official tour of Canada and the United States. But Sqn Ldr Prasong will return to the UN headquarters to address the 49th session on October 7.

The Foreign Minister also had separate meetings yesterday with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Peru's Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Sqn Ldr Prasong and his Indonesian counterpart signed a memorandum of understanding on economic and technical cooperation agreements at a meeting of the Thai-Indonesian Joint Commission last month in Bangkok. The two ministers chair the annual meeting but Mr Alatas was unable to attend the latest meeting due to health problems.

Another joint commission between Thailand and Peru is expected to be formed in November when Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan visits the Latin American country Sqn Ldr Prasong said.

The setting up of the committee will be another step toward closer cooperation between the two countries as they have signed documents on investment protection and promotion.

Peru was interested in joining a working group of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in fishery, tourism and investment, he quoted the Peruvian minister, who also is president of the council of ministers, as saying.

Army To Take Action Against Cambodian 'Criminals'

BK2809034794 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Sep 94 p 8

[Text] Aranyaprathet—The Burapha Task Force responsible for maintaining security along the Thai-Cambodian border in Prachin Buri and Sa Kaeo provinces yesterday announced tough action against Cambodian criminals including soldiers plundering Thai villagers living along the border. Task force deputy commander Col Atchawin

Sawetserani said that Cambodian troops are among the armed Khmer bandits who had robbed Thai villagers.

He said Cambodian soldiers were involved in a robbery on the night of September 24, when about 50 armed men took two six-wheel trucks across the border from Thailand after a fierce gun battle in Ta Phraya District. The bandits were well-equipped with modern weapons including RPG grenade launchers and are believed to be Cambodian soldiers, he said.

Col Atchawin said the Burapha Task Force will take drastic action against all Khmer soldiers should such a thing recur.

The officer's remarks came during an orientation of new units to provide security along the Thai-Cambodian border under the task force. Also present at the ceremony were Cambodian military representatives led by Lt-Gen Sao Socheat, deputy commander of the 12th Division.

According to a border source, after last weekend's robbery the armed bandits fled to an area under the jurisdiction of Gen Ko Chea's 7th Dinsion.

Opinion Poll Rates Chuan Government Performance

BK2809054494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Sep 94 pp A1, A4

[Text] The majority of people in Bangkok and its outlying areas are satisfied with the performance of the Chuan Administration, which they believe has achieved considerable success translating policies into concrete results, according to an opinion poll conducted jointly by THE NATION and KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT. The opinion poll found that respondents are generally happy with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's leadership and the way he handles state affairs.

Most respondents (62.6 per cent) say the government has achieved clear-cut results in its work, while 37.4 per cent disagree. Those who say they are content with the government's performance cite its success in attracting foreign investment and promoting domestic investment (34.5 per cent); 13.9 per cent point to the salary increase given to government officials; 9.1 per cent mention its handling of financial affairs and promotion of international trade; and 7.8 per cent cite redistribution of national income to the rural areas.

The poll, which was designed to gauge the government's popularity rating after two years in office, finds that 66.1 per cent of those interviewed rate its performance as either very good, good or satisfactory; 20.3 per cent described it as "mediocre"; while 13.6 per cent say they are not at all happy.

Slightly more than half of respondents (55.2 per cent) rate Chuan's leadership as either very good, good or satisfactory; 22.3 per cent described as about average; while 17.9 per cent say they are disappointed.

About half (50.6 per cent) of those surveyed say the government has not committed any serious blunders during its first two years in office, while 44.8 per cent of those interviewed say it has made some grave mistakes.

Of those who say the government has committed serious mistakes, 16.5 per cent say the most serious blunder is its traffic management; 8.2 per cent complain about the slowness with which the government carries out its work; 8 per cent say the single worst failure is the inability to solve the five-year-old Saudi jewellery theft: 6.4 per cent point to the unfinished constitutional reform.

Other perceived failures by the government include its handling of the restructuring of the Police Department, mishandling of economic affairs and failure to ensure public safety among others.

As many as 73.4 per cent of the respondents are of the opinion that the government still has important situations to bring under control; while 15.3 per cent say they see nothing that requires immediate action from the government.

Fifty-one per cent of those who say the government has yet to bring serious situations under control cite Bangkok traffic problem as the number one crisis; 6.2 per cent point to the need to redistribute the national wealth to the rural population; 5.6 per cent refer to prostitution; and 4.2 per cent want the government to curb crime in Bangkok.

The three most outstanding performers among Cabinet members are Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanahemin, according to 31.2 per cent of the respondents; Communications Minister Winai Somphong (18.4 per cent); and Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak (3.7 per cent).

Cabinet members branded "underachievers" are Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut (18.9 per cent) and Defence Minister Wichit Sukmak (7.9 per cent), with Science Minister Phisan Munlasatsathon and Justice Minister Sawai Phatthano receive equally low ranking with 4.4 per cent.

The Democrat Party is given first place in terms of clear-cut achievements among the coalition parties with 48.9 per cent of those polled; it is followed by Phalang Tham Party with 20.6 per cent; Seritham with 2.3 per cent; New Aspiration Party with 2.1 per cent, and Solidarity with 0.6 per cent.

A total of 17.9 per cent of those surveyed said none of the parties deserve to be credited as having achieved anything at all. However, when asked to cite the coalition party with the least achievements, the New Aspiration is singled out by 26.1 per cent of the respondents.

The majority (77.3 per cent) believe there is inter-party conflict among coalition partners; 10.9 per cent do not regard it as a problem; the rest have no comment. But

59.6 per cent of those interviewed say even if there is infighting among coalition parties, it will not affect the overall performance of the government; 40.4 per cent say government work is affected by the internecine problem.

In conducting the opinion poll, THE NATION and KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT asked our readers to fill in questionnaires cut out from the newspapers and sent another 1,500 questionnaires by post to randomly-selected people. A total of 3,512 people responded and 838 were selected for the opinion poll.

A total of 55.7 per cent of the respondents are men aged between 20-35 (66.5 per cent) who have a university degree (51 per cent).

Vietnam

Communique Issued on Mauritian Minister's Visit

BK2809070594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] At the invitation of Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, His Excellency Ahmud Swaley Kasenally, foreign minister of the Republic of Mauritius, paid an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 23 to 28 September. This visit was aimed at promoting bilateral and multilateral relations, as Kasenally is also chairman of the Francophone Countries Ministerial Conference, of which Vietnam is a member.

Accompanying him was Madame Aumeer Ruddy Cziffra, ambassador-president of the Standing Council of the Francophonie.

Kasenally held meetings with the foreign minister, leaders of the Ministries of Commerce, Finance, Culture and Information, and the General Tourism Department. Kasenally was cordially received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh.

The ministers welcomed the establishment of diplomatic relations in May and the first official visit by a representative of the Mauritian Government. The two sides have agreed to exchange non-residential ambassadors soon.

This visit paves the way for exploring possibilities for economic and trade cooperation in tourism, services, rice, textile and garment products, duty-free areas and so forth. It also creates favorable conditions for an agreement on avoidance of double taxation during the visit to Vietnam by the Mauritian finance minister scheduled for November. Following this visit, the two sides will concretely study the signing of an agreement on bilateral economic, trade, scientific-technological, and cultural cooperation. The ministers stressed the great potential of their countries for this cooperation, thanks to favorable geographical conditions, the conditions of both nations, their capabilities for mutual assistance, their strong labor forces, and their economic achievements.

On political and diplomatic issues, the exchange of views has brought out similarities in their policies of diversifying external relations and intensifying regional and sub-regional cooperation.

The ministers asserted the significance in the exchange of views between the South-South nations at various international arenas and organizations—including the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Community of the Francophone Countries [CFC]—against the background of the swift and complicated changes in the world in the post-Cold War period.

In the framework of the CFC, the two sides exchanged views on the CFC Foreign Ministerial Conference to be convened in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in November and the possibility of a future CFC summit in Hanoi. Kasenally asserted his keen interes in the seminar of the association of universities teaching the French language under the theme Business, State-Run Economy, and the Francophone Community, to be held in Ho Chi Minh City in November. This seminar is sponsored by the forum of businessmen using the French language headed by the chairman of the Mauritian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In the near future, the Mauritian minister of industry and industrial technology will lead a delegation of leading officials of Mauritian investment and developing export agencies and private businessmen to visit Vietnam.

Kasenally invited Nguyen Manh Cam to visit the Republic of Mauritius at his convenience and the invitation was accepted with pleasure.

The ministers contend that the visit has opened a new stage in the relations of friendship, bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Mauritius.

Nation Prepares for Full ASEAN Membership

BK2709141494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] ASEAN economic ministers have met in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with Vietnamese Trade Minister Le Van Triet holding discussions with ASEAN economic ministers. It was a common step preparing for Vietnam to join ASEAN. Here is our radio editor's opinion.

The ASEAN economic ministers mainly discussed the tariff reduction program in the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA. The ASEAN economic ministers also spent time with the Vietnamese delegation led by Minister of Trade Le Van Triet. It was the first time Vietnam attended this conference. The ASEAN economic ministers spent time introducing to the Vietnamese delegation the general lines in trade and commercial cooperation between ASEAN countries, including some priorities that Vietnam might enjoy. Meanwhile, the ASEAN economic ministers also introduced the legal setting of AFTA that Vietnam might participate in the future.

These substantial activities show that ASEAN countries all support and hope that Vietnam will soon become an official member of the organization. The Philippine Minister of Trade, Mr. Rizalino Navarro, said that at the conference, the ASEAN countries supported Vietnam in order to create a better atmosphere for mutual understanding and concern of each side. ASEAN wished to cooperate and help Vietnam so that it might fully participate in the ASEAN cooperation program. For his part, Minister Le Van Triet affirmed that Vietnam was making efforts to prepare to become a full member of ASEAN.

The conference was an important step toward this goal. Vietnam became an ASEAN observer in 1992. Vietnam's participation in the ASEAN regional forum last July and its being invited to this ASEAN economic ministerial conference show that relations between Vietnam and ASEAN countries have even further developed. Twenty-nine percent of Vietnam's two-way trade is now with ASEAN countries, and 40 percent of foreign investment in Vietnam is also from these countries.

State Inspection Delegation Concludes PRC Visit

BK2709153294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] At the invitation of the PRC Ministry of Supervision, a state inspection delegation led by Comrade Nguyen Ky Cam, member of the party Central Committee and state inspector general, paid a working visit to China from 10 to 20 September. The delegation of the PRC Ministry of Supervision led by Minister Cao Qingze held talks with our state inspection delegation. The two sides exchanged views on promoting cooperation between the Chinese Supervision Ministry and the Vietnamese State Inspection Agency.

EC Credit Assistance Program for Returnees Ends

BK2709152594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare in conjunction with the representative office of the European Community International Program [ECIP] for the re-integration of Vietnamese returnees, held a news conference today to announce an agreement to tedit program. This is in preparation for the end of the ECIP for the re-integration of Vietnamese returnees. During the last three years, the ECIP credit fund has provided over 48,000 loans to Vietnamese returnees and the community averaging $872 each or $42 million in total, to help create employment for nearly 100,000 people.

Foreign Currency Exchange Counters Planned

BK2709132594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] As of 1 October, 350 foreign currency exchange counters will have been established in Vietnam's two major cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in accordance with the prime minister's decision on foreign currency management. The counters will be located chiefly at hotels, restaurants, main business centers, and some ministries.

Australia

Keating's APEC Free Trade Agenda Viewed

BK2309141794 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 9 Sep 94 p 27

[Article by Tom Burton: "Keating Plays Asia as If He's at Home"]

[Text] The sheer audacity of Paul Keating's APEC play has suddenly become clear. It was only this week, after 33 months of pan-Pacific shuttle diplomacy, that the enormity of what Keating is seeking to secure from APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation) began to be recognised.

Keating has now secured as the principle agenda item at the upcoming APEC leaders meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, agreement to the goal to establish free trade in the Asia-Pacific region by as early as 2010. Not just lower tariff barriers, but a comprehensive free trade regime which would also affect non-tariff arrangements and, most importantly, services.

"Huge" is the word Keating uses to describe the task of getting leaders of countries as substantial and diverse as the US, China, Japan and Indonesia to agree to what can only be described as one of the most ambitious international trade initiatives since the formation of the GATT itself in 1947. But while the task of getting endorsement for a specific free trade timetable is now absolutely dominating his attention, Keating remains cautiously appreciative of the challenge before him, if totally unfazed by the domestic loss of face if it all falls apart at Bogor.

Keating considered Japan—pre-occupied with its own political reform and nervous about embracing another free trade deal while it was still struggling to ratify the GATT round—the major risk to Bogor agreeing to a specific timetable. It was this worry which prompted him to pull on the whistle-stop Japan trip—dubbed a working trip it had virtually no ceremony and was highly focused on one issue—APEC. Keating is now convinced it is a more effective way of carrying out business in the region. He returned from Tokyo far more confident about getting a deal than when he arrived, but was quick to acknowledge that it was in no way sewn up.

However, with Keating assured Japan was now unlikely to provide the focus for any caucus against the plan, this was the week where it has become clear that far from being a pipe dream, Keating now has a real chance of pulling it off.

Keating now counts Indonesia, the USA, Singapore and South Korea as key supporters of the free trade push, with the pragmatic Chinese likely to see the commercial opportunities from agreeing to the plan.

If Keating's assessment of who is on the APEC free-trade cart proves right and he wins agreement at Bogor, it will represent an extraordinary two-year transformation of a little known and confusing acronym into a vehicle for freeing up half the world's markets.

At the same time the economic might of the region would place enormous pressure on other key markets—most notably the Europeans—to also liberalise or face the weight of market realities as investment and trade begins to react to a Pacific rim open market.

What is fascinating about Keating's APEC play is that as he shuttles around the Pacific how he is using the same techniques and tactics he has used time and time again to achieve domestic reform.

Be it a Cabinet decision on financial deregulation, a Premiers' meeting on competition reform or, now, an APEC leaders meeting on trade liberalisation, the Keating game of political change has some remarkable similarities.

Put a grand objective on the table, rounding up those with political authority to take the decision, ensure some of the key players are on-side, keep the officials out, agree to principles only and give the bureaucrats and line Ministers the job of implementing it.

The big difference, of course is that in this exercise he can't resort to the invective and force that has so often won him the day at home.

Instead, he has had to employ a very subtle game of lobbying and positioning, all aimed at ensuring the momentum for a specific commitment to free trade, reaches its climax at Bogor.

The key to Mr Keating's APEC strategy was to win the support of Indonesian President, Suharto. As leader of the non-aligned countries (the G-77) Suharto has enormous diplomatic weight, particularly among the smaller South-East Asian countries.

Traditionally, Indonesia had been reluctant to embrace free trade and was considered one of the foot-draggers on trade reform within ASEAN—a group of countries not reputed for their free trade zeal.

Senior Australian officials familiar with Indonesia had braced themselves to expect Bogor to be a trade facilitation meeting with decisions to actually cut trade barriers in the Asia-Pacific region to be left to another day.

Keating, however, did not share their pessimism and was looking for a far greater task on which to build his vision of a new Asia Pacific community. Keating has always been concerned to ensure APEC was institutionally based on a real and ambitious work program, not just a talk shop.

In strategic terms, Keating wanted APEC to have enough weight to keep the US focused and involved in the East Asia region. It had to have enough purpose and political authority to offer Japan a real chance of dealing with on-going bilateral trade tensions, as well as present enough market opportunities to keep the ever pragmatic Chinese and ASEAN countries engaged.

Ideally, Keating would have waited until next year to take on the task with the passage of GATT ratification Bills threatening to spook less adventurous politicians in the Congress and the Diet who are worried about appeasing their domestic constituencies. But Keating had struck what is the closest relationship with an Indonesian leader in modern times and appreciated that Suharto wanted a real achievement from the Bogor meeting.

Keating also knew that Suharto was vitally aware Indonesia was going to continue to face problems attracting capital if it did not open its economy to foreign investment and trade. There were enough signals in the earlier part of the year that Suharto was prepared to go over the top of his traditionally more conservative ministers to prompt Keating to meet directly with him in July. At that meeting the two leaders began to work out the details of the free trade proposal.

From the Australian experience, Keating knew that the end dates for tariff reform were not crucial. What mattered was getting acceptance for a starting point and business would make their investment decisions accordingly. They agreed to push for a phased introduction of free trade to reflect the different levels of development in the region with Keating telling Suharto he would back him in whatever dates he wanted to run with at Bogor.

It is still not clear what timetable will be ultimately put to the leaders in November but Keating made it clear this week in Tokyo it will be a more ambitious timetable than the 25-year timetable proposed by the Eminent Persons Group.

It was Suharto's unambiguous decision to push for free trade—a fact which till this week has been virtually unreported—that prompted Keating several weeks ago to ring US President, Bill Clinton, to win his support for the Suharto plan.

The US has traditionally been reluctant to embrace multilateral trade arrangements, taking the position it would manage its own bilateral relations and use its market strength to extract reciprocal trade concessions. But, in what could be a very important turning point for US foreign policy, Clinton in a phone call with Keating several weeks ago told Keating he had accepted the multilateral approach embodied in APEC and that he would back Suharto's plan for the Bogor meeting to endorse a specific goal for achieving free trade.

While Keating acknowledges the forces of unilateralism still remain strong in Washington, he is convinced he now has the unequivocal backing of the White House for the free trade deal.

Suharto's decision to push for a specific free trade timetable has also had an impact on the western side of the Pacific. As Keating told the Japanese this week, here was a leader of a developing country putting a plan for free trade, normally reserved for leaders of the developed world. The message was clear. How could Japan and other developed countries come to Bogor and embarrass a leader of such stature—in front of the world's media and in his home country—by not endorsing the goal of a specific free trade target.

Keating repeated his line that he believed Japan would be the first major beneficiary from the APEC Free Trade Agenda and the question of how trade would be liberalised would be considered at next year's meeting, a meeting to be hosted by the Japanese at Osaka. As Keating told the Japanese, that would put them in the box seat to ensure their concerns over APEC becoming a trade block was given due consideration.

This was the key breakthrough from Tokyo and Keating now believes the question of how free trade will work will be considered next year. That just leaves Bogor to decide when it will all begin.

New Zealand

Quarterly Trade Deficit Reaches $120 Million

BK2709064394 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] New Zealand has recorded a $120 million trade deficit in the three months to August due to record import figures. Statistics New Zealand says imports for the three months to August totalled $5.04 billion—5 percent higher than for the same period in 1993. The figures show vehicle imports in the three months were 24 percent higher, while machinery imports rose 15 percent and electrical machinery imports, 14 percent. Exports in the three months to August rose 2 percent to $4.92 billion when compared with the same period last year.

Papua New Guinea

Premier Goes to Fiji To Sign Peacekeeping Pact

BK2709064694 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, is on his way to Fiji for the signing of a Pacific islands status of forces agreement. The agreement will legalize the formation of the Pacific Islands Peacekeeping Force for Bougainville, composed of troops from Tonga, Fiji, and Vanuatu. He has described the chartered jet flight as a pilgrimage for peace on Bougainville.

Radio Australia's Port Moresby correspondent, Sean Dorney, is on the flight and reports from Honiara that Sir Julius is picking up ministers from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on his way to Suva. Seats have also been reserved for the Bougainville Revolutionary Army's military commander, Sam Kauona, and one of his international spokesmen, Martin Mariori.

Dorney says Sir Julius went into immediate talks with both of them after landing in Honiara.

Three Countries Sign Pact

BK2809032494 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Secessionist rebels on the Papua New Guinea [PNG] island of Bougainville have warned that the cease-fire agreement with the PNG Government is in grave danger of collapsing. The military commander of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA], Sam Kauona, said this is because of the actions of the PNG Defense Force on Bougainville since the agreement was signed three weeks ago.

Mr. Kauona said the agreement called for the BRA and the government to maintain their current position. However, he said, an increasing number of troops movements have been reported around the Panguna copper mine and on other parts of Bougainville.

Meanwhile, three South Pacific island governments have signed the Status of Forces Agreement with PNG, commiting their troops to a Bougainville peacekeeping force. Sean Dorney reports the Status of Forces Agreement was signed at a ceremony at the South Pacific Forum Secretariat in Fiji.

[Begin Dorney recording] Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka cut short a visit to Asia to fly back to Suva in time for the ceremony. Fiji is committing 232 soldiers for the 400-strong task force and Mr. Rabuka said it was not the first time Fijian soldiers have gone to Bougainville to secure peace. In World War Two, Fiji's most highly decorated soldier was killed by the Japanese on Bougainville.

PNG's Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan said the deployment of a regional peace force falls squarely within the United Nations Charter and the force would be neutral, simply guaranteeing the safety of all Bougainvillians attending the Bougainville peace conference on 10 October. The crown prince of Tonga, Prince (Supatoa), and the prime minister of Vanuatu, Maxime Carlot Korman, signed the Status of Forces Agreement for their country. [end recording]

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